THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Fall 2019 *Volume 27, Number 3*

Extremely Rare 1786 Connecticut Miller 3-D.4 "Scholar's Head" Surfaces (See Page 9)
Frank Steimle Photographs

Featured in this issue:

- President's Corner
- Steve Ellsworth Elected ANA President
- Letters to the Editor
- Newly Found Example of
  1786 Connecticut Miller 3-D.4
- An Unexpected Discovery
- No Taxation without Representation
- A New New Jersey Copper
- Mike Ringo's Colonial Fixed Price Lists
- Oh, Those Dandy Buttons
- Library Challenge:
  Materials on 18th Century Minting Technology
- Gosslings ~~Goose Tokens~~ Revisited
- C4 Library News
- Announcements
- Classified, Sponsor and Club Ads

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1786 Maris 8.5-C. Rarity-8. No Coulter, Pattern Reverse. Fine-15 (PCGS).
Ex Picker, Taylor and O'Donnell Collections.

1786 Maris 16-J. Rarity-6-. EF-40 (PCGS).
Ex Hall, Brand and Bareford Collections.

1786 Maris 18-M. Rarity-3. Bridle. AU-55 (PCGS).

1786 Maris 21.5-R. Rarity-8. VG-8 (PCGS).
Ex Picker Collection.

1786 Maris 22-P. Rarity-7. No Coulter. VF-20 (PCGS).

1787 Maris 27-S. Rarity-5-. AU-50 (PCGS).

1787 Maris 39-a. Rarity-2. Double Struck. AU-58 (PCGS).

1787 Maris 44-c. Rarity-6+. Sleigh Runner. VG-10 (PCGS).

1788 Maris 49-f. Rarity-5. Head Left. EF-40 (PCGS).
Ex Spiro Collection.

1787 Maris 53-j. Rarity-4. AU-55+ (PCGS).
Ex Spiro Collection.

1787 Maris 57-n. Rarity-6+. Camel Head. Double Struck. Fine-12 (PCGS).
Ex Maris Collection and the Maris Obverse Plate Coin.

1787 Maris 68-w. Rarity-5. AU-53+ (PCGS).

1787 Maris 70-x. Rarity-7-. Plaited Mane. Fine Details (PCGS). Overstruck.

1787 Maris 73-aa. Rarity-4. Plaited Mane. Fine-15 (PCGS). Overstruck on a Spanish 4 Maravedis of Charles IV.

1787 Maris 83-ii. Rarity-7-. Very Fine Details (PCGS).

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AU-53 (PCGS).
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1786 Miller 1-A. R-4+.
ET LIB INDE.
AU-58+ BN (PCGS).

1786 Miller 2.1-D.3. R-7-.
Round Head.
VF-20 (PCGS).

1786 Miller 2.2-D.2. R-6.
Noble Head.
VF-20 (PCGS).
Ex 1975 EAC-Taylor.

1786 Miller 3-D.4. R-8.
Scholar's Head.
Fine-15 (PCGS).

1786 Miller 5.3-G. R-7+.
Hercules Head.
VF-25 (PCGS).

1787 Miller 1.2-C. R-3. Muttonhead.
AU-58 (PCGS).
Ex Oechsner.

1787 Miller 1.2-mm. R-7. Muttonhead.
VF-35 (PCGS).
Ex MHS-Taylor.

1787 Miller 7-I. R-5+.
Hercules Head. VF-25 (PCGS).
Ex Oechsner. Crosby Plate.

1787 Brockage of Miller Obverse 19.
VF-35 (PCGS).

1787 Miller 52-G.1. R-6-.
Roman Head. VF-30 (PCGS).
Ex 1975 EAC.

1788 Miller 4.1-B.1. R-5+. Overstruck.
AU-55 (PCGS).
Ex Roper.

Massachusetts Silver Coinage – over 50 pieces, including many rare die pairings, fractional cut small change pieces, and coins from the shipwreck of the *HMS Feversham*.

1652 Oak Tree Shilling. Noe-8. R-7.
AU-50 (PCGS).
Ex Stearns.

1652 Oak Tree Shilling. Noe-13. R-6.
AU-50 (PCGS).
Ex Haines(1888)-Stearns-Oechsner.

1652 Pine Tree Shilling. Noe-1.
Cut to Sevenpence Weight. EF-40.
Ex HMS Feversham.

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Fall 2019

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Web address: www.colonialcoins.org

C4 National Officers:

President — Jack Howes, 19967 East Doyle, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, jackhowes@yahoo.com

Vice-President — Craig McDonald, 10503 Briar Brook Lane, Frisco, TX, CMcdon0923@aol.com

Treasurer: Charlie Rohrer, P.O. Box 25, Mountville, PA 17554, RohrerC@cadmus.com

Secretary: Dr. Jay Knipe, P. O. Box 4696, Wallingford, CT 06492, jknipe1@cox.net

Past-President: Dr. Jim Rosen, 9 Seminole Way, Bloomfield, CT 06002, jprosen1@comcast.net

C4 Regional Vice Presidents:

Region 1 (CT, NJ, Quebec, Canadian Maritimes)
Jim Glickman
24 Coulton Park
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781-449-1645
jamesglickman1@gmail.com

Region 2 (MA, VT, ME, NH, RI)
Mike Wierzba
43 Bicknell Road
Abington, MA 02351-2603

Region 3 (NY, MD, DE)
Dr. David Menchell
P.O. Box 656832
Fresh Meadows, NY 11365
dmenchell@gmail.com

Region 4 (TN, VA, WV, DC, PA)
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1469 Fenwick St.
Star City, WV 26505
sstephens@hsc.wvu.edu

Region 5 (FL, AR, NC, SC, GA, AL, MS, KY, LA, PR)
Gregory Field
PO Box 11961
Charlotte, NC 28220
704-293-4426
gregory@carolina.rr.com

Region 6 (OH, IN, IL, Ontario, Manitoba)
Chris McDowell
5008 Leonard St.
Cincinnati, OH 45208
CRMcDowell@strausstroy.com

Region 7 (MI, WI, IA, ND, SD, KS, NE, OK, TX)
Wayne Shelby
8 Brighton Rd.
Mount Holly, NJ
dughistory@juno.com

Region 8 (NM, AZ, ID, WY, MO, MT, UT
UT, NV, Mexico, CA, HI)
Dr. Chris Salmon
6328 E. Cactus Wren Rd.
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253-4249
chris.salmon.1652@gmail.com

Region 9 (WA, OR, CO, MN, AK, BC, UK)
Mitch Mitchell
P.O. Box 46577
Seattle, WA 98146
e78602@yahoo.com

C4 Newsletter Editors:

Editor: Will Nipper, will.nipper1777@gmail.com, 501-514-0785
Associate Editor and Past Editor: Sydney F. Martin, sfmartin5@comcast.net

*Articles and classified ads may be e-mailed to Will; sent to him at **1040 Autumnwood Dr., Conway, AR 72034-6036**; or sent to Syd at the indicated e-mail address. Authors submitting articles for possible publication are, by such submission, attesting that the material is original and/or properly cited.*

C4 Librarian:

Leo Shane
1130 Woods Lane, Warminster, PA 18974
Leo_j_shane@hotmail.com

Chair: C4 Public Relations Committee

Arnold Miniman
2730 Old Forest Drive, Johns Island, SC 29455
201-317-4199; ahminiman@gmail.com

Membership questions, address changes, and dues should be sent to Charlie Rohrer at P.O. Box 25, Mountville, PA 17554. Dues are $30 regular (including 1st class mailing of the *Newsletter within the US*) and $40 (for 1st class mailing outside the US); $10 for junior members (under 18 residing in the US) and $15 (under 19 residing outside the US.)

☞☞☞

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Jack Howes)

The calendar just turned to fall but in Detroit it is still summer and hopefully will be for some time. If you have not already done so, you should consider making hotel reservations for the C4 Convention. I highly recommend new members to try to attend. We will have an interesting auction this year. Actually, more than one. If you are only able to get to one big show this year, this is the one. Make sure to stop by the C4 table and introduce yourself. You will have a great time.

Robert Martin's collection will be auctioned by Stack's-Bowers/C4 including both his Connecticuts and Massachusetts silver. Three highlights are included at the bottom of this column: one of the finest known Miller 1788 1-I examples, the Hall Brand discovery coin, another CT, the Miller 1787 33.28-Z.16 "snipe nose," just a beautiful coin and finally a cut piece of Massachusetts silver from the Feversham wreck, Noe 1 Pine Tree shilling cut to roughly a sixpence.

In addition to the Robert Martin collection, Stacks-Bowers will be auctioning an impressive run of NJs including many rarities e.g., 8.5-C, 9-G, 10-G, 10-gg, 11-H, 11.5-G, and many more. Geez Louise!

If that was not enough they also are auctioning a great collection of historic American medals from John Adams with highlights such as the finest known diplomatic medal and numerous original strike *Comitia Americana* medals in copper and silver!

I have spent the last six months or so working with Roger Moore on the completion of his book on Virginia coinage. I am happy to report that the book is being printed now and will be available at C4 via Charles Davis. Price is $95. This is a good book and covers all of the coins found in and around Virginia. Look for a full page ad later in this issue.

Lastly I want to ask the members for help. The club needs a person who can spend time reading numismatic items related to colonial coinage to be a sort of web content finder and updater. The person does not need to actually update the website themselves. We have a support person for that. This person would check our web site regularly and provide links to updated content or scans/photos of things to add. If you are at all interested, please contact me or any of the regional VPs.

CT Miller 1788 1-I / Vermont RR-39, Bressett 25-U

CT Miller 1787 33.28-Z.16 “Snipe Nose”

MA Pine Tree Shilling, Noe-1 / Salmon 1-A, Cut to roughly 6d
Wreck of H.M.S. Feversham

COL. STEVE ELLSWORTH ELECTED ANA PRESIDENT

Our very own C4 member Col. Steve Ellsworth (right) was installed as the new President of the American Numismatic Association at the World's Fair of Money in Rosemont, IL on August 16. Pictured is outgoing president Gary Adkins passing the gavel to Steve. Photo credit: ANA Archives/Robert B. Kelley.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR [AND C4 MEMBERS]

[Editor's note: For the first time in a while, we have actual letters to the Editor! Once commonplace, they are often now suplanted by online discussions. We forget that C4N is still a great place to make voices heard. Please take time to read and respond. We'll publish your replies in the next issue.]

✉ ***Re: Make Money the Old Fashioned Way - Fake it," C4N, Vol 27, No. 2***

Dear Editor,

I am writing about Jeff Rock's above referenced article about counterfeit *Nova Constellatio* copper tokens. In it he writes, "There are three dates, two major design types for both the obverse and reverse dies…" I write only to observe that I believe there are three major design types for the reverse die.

All 1783 tokens use Roman style block letters for the abbreviation US, and the words *Libertas* and *Justitia* are separated by an ornament. All 1785 tokens express the letters US with a fancy script monogram, and the words *Libertas* and *Justitia* are joined by the Latin word *et*, meaning "and"; Liberty AND Justice.

The 1786 reverse is a mash up of the two. Like the 1783 reverse, the letters US are expressed in Roman style block letters. But instead of being separated by an ornament, the words, *Libertas* and *Justitia* are joined by the Latin word *ET,* like the 1785 reverse.

I haven't seen this mentioned before and wanted to document the observation.

I am greatly enjoying Jeff's series on contemporary counterfeits.

Yours truly,
Franklin L. Noel

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Issues of *JEAN* normally run around 200 pages or more and contain articles on a variety of American Colonial numismatic topics. The upcoming December issue will contain extensive research on the Fugio coinage and restrikes. Since 1960, almost every major advance in our understanding of the history of Fugio restrikes has appeared in *CNL*. The December issue of *JEAN* continues this tradition with major articles completely rewriting our understanding of this coinage.

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NEW EXAMPLE OF THE 1786 CONNECTICUT VARIETY, MILLER 3-D.4 FOUND

(Frank Steimle)

I recently acquired this coin from a Florida dealer's online listing, who apparently only used the Red Book to ID it as a 1786 CT Large Head variety. Believe it or not, it stayed on his list for at least a day before I got around to looking at the reverse. When I saw the cud, I immediately knew it wasn't D.1 and quickly banged down a "buy it now" payment in hope I wasn't a second or so late. I got it.

The coin weighs 124.8 grains and is about 28 mm in diameter. It appears to be only the 4th known example of the variety. In 2000 Robert Martin did a population census of Connecticut varieties, based on the Perkins collection. He noted that only 3 examples of this variety were known:

1. A 1995 Stack sale coin in Fine;

2. The ANS/Miller coin variously graded as AG-VG; and |

3. The Perkins/Taylor/ 1975 EAC Pine Tree coin is a corroded AG.

My coin is also AG but is smooth without the corrosion of #3, but with slightly more wear. It also has a few faint scratches on the left side of the reverse (see photo). It is one of the 3 examples that show the massive reverse cud that obviously caused the D.4 die to have a very short use life, thus its rarity.

Newly discovered example of 1786 Connecticut, Miller 3-D.4, “Scholar Head” copper.

AN UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY

(Mark A. Sportack)

When I started collecting patent farthings, it didn't take long to figure out they are unlike most other coins. They were made using technology and procedures quite unlike other coin issues of their era. Not surprisingly, the errors that come from these processes differ from what you can expect from more traditional impact-based minting technologies. In this series, errors abound. Die breaks and cracks, straight clips, off-centered cut-outs, and even asymmetric obverse-reverse centeredness are all quite common. Curved clips exist, too, but are a bit rarer than straight clips. And, since the dies were hand-sunk, you can also expect to find a wide variety of die production errors such as minor spacing/alignment errors, spelling variations (sometimes even outright mistakes) in the legends, and tremendous inconsistency with the punctuation marks that were used as stops.

Because they were made on roller presses, you should not expect to find strikerelated errors such as a double-struck farthing or a brockage. Likewise, you wouldn't expect to find a restrike or an overstrike. Unlike the coin-at-a-time paradigm used by impact-based minting technologies that created the possibility of a struck coin being inserted into the press, roller presses were designed for high-speed minting via insertion of strips of sheet copper (known as fillets) between counter-rotating rollers. During normal operation, only fillets would be fed to the press; never a flan or coin. Which is exactly why the patent farthing shown in Picture 1 was such a surprise.

Picture 1: Obverse and reverse of a Lennox Type 3 farthing with coronet privy

All die markers and diagnostics verify that this Lennox farthing was made using authentic dies. Yet the die states are not consistent with what one would expect to find.

This coin is a mess! What first attracted me to this farthing was its privy – the very rare baronial coronet. The shape of the coronet is somewhat obscured due to a die break. Fortunately, the break was contained completely within the interior of the coronet thereby preserving its outline. It is still obviously a coronet and therefore desirable and collectable even though it's not in the best condition.

The coronet privy is quite significant as it was likely the last Lennox farthings made as all Richmond farthings with this privy exhibit over stamped letters that transformed IACO into CARO. That transitional die variety allows us to date this die set a bit more

precisely, and suggests this privy was introduced shortly before the death of King James I in 1624. Dies were modified to permit continued use upon the coronation of King Charles I.[1] This obverse die wasn't modified, indicating the farthing was either made before the death of King James I, or was made after his death with a die that went unmodified.

This farthing has an uneven appearance whereas patent farthings tend to have similar appearances on both sides unless they suffered environmental damage. This one exhibits similar patination and level of preservation on both sides. Despite this, the obverse and reverse look quite very different. Both sides were made from dies that were well past their prime but had suffered the ravages of time in very different ways.

One interesting feature is that the A and C in IACO appear to be very weakly struck. Initially, I thought that these letters were lapped away as someone attempted to de-rust the die. However, if you look at the reverse, these letters correspond to where a die break occurred. By using the edge deformity at 3 o'clock on the obverse as a reference point it's possible to confirm the correlation of the die break with the weak AC. Clearly, someone de-rusted the die, but we can't blame their exuberance for the shallowness of the AC.

The obverse exhibits a heavily stippled or textured finish. Under great magnification, it's clear that this isn't the typical sharp-edged cratering caused by environmental damage to a coin's surfaces. This texture is smoother, and highly consistent with a coin made with a die that had rusted heavily and then been lapped. In some Lennox issues it's not unusual to find signs of minor die rust. This obverse, however, was made from a die that was rusted completely – far beyond the pimpled fields one would normally encounter.

"Rust pimples" are commonly found on several Lennox farthing types so it is safe to generally assume that dies were made in batches and stockpiled until they were needed. During their time in storage some dies developed some measure of rust, usually evident as raised lumps or pimples in the fields. This example, however, exhibits severe rust on 100% of the obverse. Yet, other examples of coronet privy Lennox farthings I own or have seen do not exhibit any die rust whatsoever. The severity of die rust on this farthing goes well beyond what one expects to find in this coinage. The obverse die must have been in storage a very long time.

Use of a severely rusted die only proves that considerable time may have passed between when the die was made and when it was used to make a coin. Left unknown is who made it, when, and for what purpose.

As interesting as the obverse of this farthing is, it's the reverse that makes it unique. The reverse demonstrates clear signs of an undertype. Undertypes are formed when one feeds a coin – not a blank flan – into a press and the striking pressure doesn't completely

[1] This theory doesn't fit conveniently with the long-held belief that the redesigned crowns with 9 jewels and blocky shapes were the fourth and last Lennox type. Tim Everson classified the 9-jewel crowns as Lennox Type 4 in his book, *The Galata Guide to the Farthing Tokens of James I and Charles I*. It is possible that early production of Charles I patent farthings was completed with long-forgotten dies, but the rarity of the James I baronial coronet privy farthing argues in favor of a very short production span.

obliterate the designs on that host coin. Although it was quite common for some coins to be restruck on obsolete host coins, patent farthings aren't one of those issues. No small part of the reason for that is how these coins were made.

It was possible for someone to carefully feed a coin or an individual flan to a roller press, but that runs contrary to both the design of the press and the operating procedures it necessitated. A roller press was all about high-speed – and consequently high-volume – production. It featured dual counter-rotating roller dies that impressed both sides of a farthing simultaneously. Fillets were fed into the press and farthings were punched out of the rolled fillet using hand-hammered cut-out punches. It was not possible for a completed patent farthing to be accidentally or unknowingly fed to a roller press. Feeding a single patent farthing back into a press would have been a deliberate act.

Yet, Here We are!

In Picture 2 you can see the head of the undertype harp directly west of the main harp head. This juxtaposition makes it easy to see their differences. The undertype harp is the wrong shape and dimensions for it to be from a genuine patent farthing: it is too wide and square. In fact, the undertype is unlike anything produced by any legitimate patent holder which strongly suggests the host coin was a contemporary counterfeit patent farthing.

The figural head on the subtype's foreframe is also directly west of the Lennox design, but is also the wrong shape for it to be an authentic patent farthing.

Picture 2: Closeup of the undertype harp head and foreframe

Other features from the host coin, such as lettering, also remain evident though not sufficiently distinct to be diagnostic. Picture 3 shows that on either side of the T in ET you can see the I and B of HIB from the host coin. Thanks to having so clear a figural head and fore-frame, we know that the features on the reverse should all line up relatively well with authentic specimens. Consequently, we know what should be there, but those features are not clear enough to attribute.

Picture 3: Closeup of other undertype features

Picture 4 shows one of the more telltale features of the undertype. Southeast of the Lennox harp is evidence of an interior beaded circle. The beads are faint, and do not photograph well, but are there. They are most prominent below the A:E in the legend. An inner beaded circle was introduced as part of the dramatic redesign introduced with the Maltravers

farthings. These beads are crude and lack the consistency found on authentic Maltravers farthings. The complexity of the Maltravers design, paired with a very short production run of just 3 years resulted in a dramatic decrease in counterfeiting. Some estimates hold that counterfeits may have constituted as little as 5% of the coins in circulation. Even today, counterfeit Maltravers farthings are a rare treat to find.

Picture 4: Closeup of undertype's interior beaded circle

The Maltravers farthings were only made from 1634 to 1636. We can also closely approximate the date of the Lennox coronet privy farthings to the time of King James I's death in 1625. Ten years or so is more than enough time for a die to have rusted as completely as the coronet obverse did. It's also more than enough elapsed time for any numismatist to accept this farthing as a restrike.

Having discovered an undertype, the next obvious challenge is identifying the host coin. Size and weight preclude its being anything other than a large flan patent farthing. Close examination of the undertype reveals parts of a harp, which confirms the undertype's origin as a patent farthing. Interestingly, the undertype's harp is almost perfectly aligned with the Lennox harp. Although that could have been the result of randomly inserting the farthing into the press, one must consider that the operator was familiar with the operation of the press. Thus, it's plausible that the host coin was deliberately oriented with the dies perhaps to conceal the features of that host coin.

I've compared the shape of the undertype's harp to legitimate Maltravers patent farthings, but the harp is inconsistent to known designs. I also compared this undertype to all contemporary counterfeit patent farthings in my collection as well as those for which I could find photographs. Despite examining hundreds of contemporary counterfeit patent farthings (I didn't limit this portion of my research to just Maltravers farthings) I cannot find a perfect match for this undertype. However, I found one that was close! Picture 5 shows the obverse and reverse of a contemporary counterfeit Maltravers farthing in my collection that features a similar fore-frame on the harp. The harp head doesn't match the undertype, but the fore-frame is quite similar. Instead of a knob or a hook or a scroll, this one features a horizontal line jutting sharply away from the harp. This shape has no precedent amongst regal farthings and is best regarded as the artistry of a forger.

The counterfeit Maltravers farthing variety[2] is a curious mix of almost-convincing and laughably crude features. The main devices are almost good enough to pass for regal, as are many of the letters although the AN in FRAN appears to have been manually scratched into the die. The N is also backward, and all the B's look more like 8's. To the trained eye of a Token House worker, this farthing would have been an abomination.

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[2] *The Galata Guide to The Farthing Tokens of James I and Charles I*, by Tim Everson, page 44. 2007 by The Galata Print LTD. Everson catalogued this variety of forgery as #C79.

Picture 5: Contemporary counterfeit Maltravers farthing with matching fore-frame

Although this counterfeit farthing is not a perfect match for the undertype, it's foreframe certainly comes close enough that it may have come from the same source as the contemporary counterfeit that was reborn as the rare and obsolete Lennox coronet privy farthing shown in Picture 1. That suggests this restrike occurred sometime between 1634 and 1636 though it's not possible to know with any certainty. The restrike may well have occurred later than that – perhaps during the Rose farthing era when roller presses were no longer used in the token house. What is certain is that whoever made it had access to an obsolete set of dies as well as a roller press. More importantly, they apparently believed that a decade-old patent farthing was more desirable than a counterfeit of a newer design. This suggests that older types of patent farthings circulated alongside newer types.

Conclusion

I believe that someone who had either worked in the Lennox Token House or was in possession of their tooling, found themselves in possession of a rare – but not yet desirable – counterfeit Maltravers farthing and took it upon themselves to legitimize it.

A restruck patent farthing made using obsolete dies and a contemporary counterfeit host coin is unprecedented. It may have been an attempt at legitimizing a counterfeit farthing without running afoul of anti-counterfeiting laws or maybe they were just using it as a die adjustment test while setting up the roller press for production. That the obverse die featured a rare privy was just a coincidence and, today, a distraction. The real value of this patent farthing lies with its undertype that is a decade newer than we know the overtype dies to be. Hopefully this discovery will lead to the identification of other restrikes and undertypes in this field.

NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION!

(Ray Williams)

As I write this, a friend is drafting an article about William Pitt for future publication in the *Journal of Early American Numismatics*. I'm certain the 1765 Stamp Act will be discussed in detail. In preparation for this short article, I familiarized myself with the Stamp Act and read the entry at Wikipedia.org. It was an eye-opener for me. Of course I knew of the Stamp Act, but never knew all of the background history.

The colonial formation of the Stamp Act Congress was a predecessor of the Continental Congress. Colonial merchants threatened to stop importing from England and big business influence forced Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act. Later came the Boston Tea Party, the Sons of Liberty, the Intolerable Acts… you know the rest. Enjoy a look into our colonial history and do your own research into the Stamp Act.

You are probably wondering, where am I going with all of this? At C4 in Baltimore last year, I obtained a number of Revolutionary War soldier autographs, colonial seals and colonial tax stamps. I figured these would provide many snowy evenings of fun. I was not disappointed. I have friends who have added tax stamps to their collections from the 1765 Stamp Act. Genuine examples are very rare and out of my budget. The tax stamps I purchased are **not** of these varieties.

After doing some research, I discovered that in the 1750s both New York and Massachusetts passed their own Stamp Acts to raise revenue for their respective colonies. What I purchased were two pence and three pence tax stamps from New York. There seems to have been no major objections to these tax stamps at the time, since they were legislated locally. Thanks to Julia Casey's awesome internet search abilities, here is the beginning of the text of the authorizing legislation:

> *"An Act for Erecting and Establishing a Stamp Office in this Colony for Stamping all Vellum Parchment and Paper charged with the several Duties therein Mentioned [Passed December 1, 1756]*
>
> *"Whereas the present Exigencies of this Colony require large sums of Money for defraying the Necessary expences thereof And it being conceived that Considerable sums may be raised by a Stamp Duty without being over burthensome to the Inhabitants of this Colony*
>
> *"BE IT THEREFORE Enacted by his Excellency the Governor the Council and the General Assembly and it is hereby Enacted by the authority of the same That from and after the first Day of January Next there shall be throughout this His Majesties Colony Raised Collected and paid unto the Treasury for his Majesties use during the term of one whole Year for the several and Respective things hereafter Mentioned Which shall be Printed or Written during the Term Aforesaid the several and Respective Rates*

Impositions Duties Charges and sums of Money herein after Mentioned in Manner and form following, that is to Say

"For every Skin or piece of Vellum or Parchment sheet or piece of Paper upon which any Capais or other process of Whatever Denomination the same May be That shall Issue out from the Clerks office or pass the seal of any court of Judicature within this Colony Shall be Written or Printed or both Printed and Written the sum of Three pence."

"For every Skin or piece of Vellum or Parchment sheet or piece of Paper upon which any Declaration Plea Replication Rejoinder Demurrer or other pleadings Whatever in any Court of Law shall be Written or Printed or both the sum of Two-pence.

…

"For every Skin or piece of Vellum or Parchment sheet or piece of Paper upon which any License for Marriage shall be Written or Printed or both the sum of Four pence…"

The above legislation continues for many pages and can be found in *The Colonial Laws of New York from the Year 1664 to the Revolution*, Volume IV, p. 110, Albany, NY 1894.

I just returned (20 minutes ago) from a short road trip to Trenton Stamp and Coin where Tom was very helpful finding a Scott Catalog reference for these tax stamps. Here's what I learned:

The Massachusetts Act of January 8, 1755 provided for tax stamps. It was in effect from May 1, 1755 through April 30, 1757. The tax stamps were in the denominations of ½, 2, 3 and 4 pence. (No 1 pence!)

The New York Tax Stamp Act of December 1, 1756 was in effect from January 1, 1757 through December 31, 1760. These stamps were issued in denominations of ½, 1, 2, 3 &4 pence. The ½ pence stamp is red and I have not been able to discover how it was applied. The other four denominations are all embossed. Embossing creates an impression onto the paper, much like some types of notary seals apply today. For this reason, I don't know how well they'll photograph. Success! As you can see below, side lighting brought up the details

Although not numismatic, these are really cool pieces of colonial history. They are examples of how the colonial governments raised their own funds to supply their needs. Reading through the list of all the different documents that needed tax stamps gave me a glimpse into what was happening in colonial life. Also, I have a vision of someone convicted of counterfeiting these stamps (per legislation) standing on the gallows for an hour with a noose around their neck (on public display) and then having their ears separated from their heads. Ahhhh… the good old days.

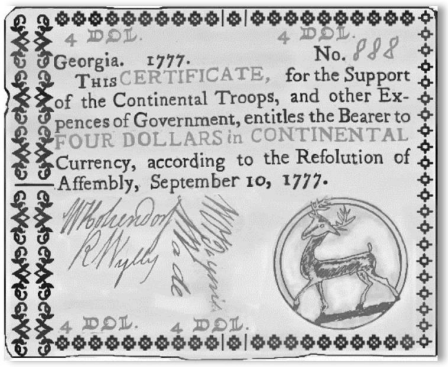
NY Tax Stamps, 2d and 3d from1757 to 1760. Unknown French tax stamp envelope marked 17th century. Obtained at C4 Convention Baltimore October 2018. The two 2d stamps seem to both be from Duchess County and dated 1757.

A NEW NEW JERSEY COPPER

(Michael Demling)

Yes, my Fellow C4'ers there is a New New Jersey Copper!! And it is the Square Jersey. A unique creation from a Crazy Jersey Collector. I've been developing this Square Jersey for several years now and finally put my Idea to pen and paper for a sketch of how I envisioned what a square Jersey would look like (See above sketch) The background story starts with a interesting Art medal created by the Medallic Art Co. in 1984. They designed, and struck one-fourth and one-half ounce silver medals. I had one of these medals and found them very interesting. Well, I figured being a Jersey Copper specialist why not make a Square Jersey? So, from sketch to hunting a mint that could produce this unusual coin, just last October my idea became reality.

Top left: 1984 Medallic Art Co. "Squared Quarter." Photo courtesy Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS.com.) Top right: Concept drawing for "Squared New Jersey." Bottom left: Raw copper (proof) Square New Jersey. Bottom right: Antique finish example.



MIKE RINGO FIXED PRICE LISTS OF COLONIAL COINS

(Jeff Rock)

The late Mike Ringo occupies an interesting space in the field of colonial coins. He wasn't the first dealer to specialize solely in the area – Richard Picker and David Sonderman preceded him in that respect and, of course, many other dealers handled a substantial number of colonial coins as part of their overall numismatic sales as far back as the latter half of the 19th century. He wasn't the first to issue fixed price lists of just colonials, as Sonderman beat him to that as well. His lists did not include finest knowns or extremely rare varieties – though he did handle such things they were invariably sold privately, usually to leading collectors of the day, or to good friends that asked the right question: "What did you turn up this week?" But Mike left his mark on the hobby in a way that those other earlier dealers did not.

Mike Ringo in three different decades. At left attending the 1987 Taylor Sale in New York. Middle at the 1991 C4 Convention in Boston, during the infamous Midnight Sale. Right at the 2005 Roger Siboni Beach BBQ in Mantoloking, New Jersey; he would pass away a year and a half after this photo.

Richard Picker undoubtedly handled more incredible material than Mike did – but Picker never issued a single price list of things for sale, and it is difficult today to get even a rough estimate of how much he actually sold, as only a handful of collectors (including Phillip Keller, Ted Craige and Eric Newman) kept his original envelopes when they bought from him; other collectors likely did as well, but those envelopes were tossed when the coins were resold or went to auction. Picker's name is mostly known today for the incredible quality of coins in his personal collection which were sold by Stack's shortly after he passed away, which included the extremely rare NJ coppers he managed to get out of the Garrett collection before it went up for auction – but he is remote enough in time that no more than a couple of C4 members active today knew him personally. Sadly, his accomplishments are lost to history, especially since his entire written output amounts to a single (very good) article on Massachusetts Silver die states that appeared in the 1976 volume *Studies on Money in Early America* published by the American Numismatic Society.

David Sonderman's career was even briefer than Mike's, as he passed away at the age of just 35, issuing only a handful of fixed price lists, which were sent to a very limited number of collectors. These lists were issues mostly in the early 1980s, an early enough time that, like Picker, few in the club today personally knew him either. Sonderman did not write much for publication, and is best remembered today as cataloguing Picker's collection of colonials for

Stack's, as well as the incomparable Roper collection; Sonderman's collection would be sold by the same firm shortly after his own death. Had he not passed away so young he would likely have had a career as a cataloguer for Stack's. Picker belonged to an earlier generation, Sonderman was something of a bridge from it – but Mike was OUR generation.

For many of us Mike was one of the first (and few) dealers that we knew about who handled colonial coins, and for almost exactly a decade we all stopped whatever we were doing when we received an envelope with his return address on it. We quickly scanned the list and immediately picked up the phone to call Mike – often facing a half hour of busy signals (younger folk won't know what that is – Google it) before getting through. It was certainly a different era: there were no websites, no text messages, and anyone foolish enough to take the archaic way and write to Mike to order something would usually be out of luck on the rare or interesting coins, which would invariably have multiple orders.

Mike was legendary in the hobby for the depth and breadth of his knowledge when it came to colonial coins. He knew something about every series, and for many series he knew just as much as collectors who had been in the hobby for decades longer than him. He had a great memory and used it to locate rare varieties, again in every series, and was justifiably regarded as the best cherry picker of his era. Mike went to many shows on the east coast (and occasionally further afield, especially the annual ANA conventions and occasionally out to the west coast for the Long Beach and Santa Clara shows) and woe to anyone who walked onto a bourse floor after him – you did not fish downstream from Mike because only minnows would be left. There was a period of at least 5 years where Mike seemed to turn up something rare or new every month. EVERY month. Let that sink in. When most of us are happy making a major cherry pick every 5 or 10 years, he was doing it every 4 weeks! He would joke that "rent was due" and, like clockwork, an R-7 variety of state coinage would fall into his hands – or occasionally an unlisted variety of something, which might pay rent for the year. Indeed, Mike's eye was so good that when he found something great all he had to do was call a collector and the piece would be sold, sight unseen – no photograph needed and no negotiations made because one knew there were always other eager collectors who would snap the piece up if given a chance. Most of the leading collectors of the 1980s and early 1990s gave their private phone numbers to Mike, and all picked up the phone when he called.

Mike worked hard at this. There was no eBay to scroll through to find things from sellers all around the world. Instead, he would be at every Stack's or Bowers sale that had colonials, and pretty much any other auction house that he knew about. There was seldom a group lot at auction that he wouldn't inspect, attribute and often buy. Mike bought more group lots at the Frederick Taylor sale in 1987 than anyone (discovering a misattributed variety that was an R-8 in one of them, of course) and another couple group lots purchased at a Boston coin store led to the legendary Midnight Sale held at the 1991 C4 Convention, with coins catalogued by Walter Breen and this writer. He knew many coin dealers in several states and would visit their stores regularly – and those dealers would more often than not hold every colonial that came into their hands until they saw Mike. But coin shows, coin stores and coin auctions were not his only stomping grounds. Living in upstate New York he was a short drive from numerous antique stores, large flea markets and antique fairs, small country auctions and other venues that then might have colonials lurking somewhere – and if they were, he would find them. He was also close to the Canadian border and ventured across often, finding some amazing things that escaped most American dealers who wouldn't have thought to go searching that far north.

Mike was so respected – and his knowledge so sought after – that leading collectors (and dealers) happily put him up as a house guest, sometimes for extended periods of time. I can think of no other person who was a guest of Eric Newman, Bill Anton, Roger Siboni, Tom Rinaldo, Robert Martin and others – all of whom got the benefit of Mike's wisdom, and often first shot at anything he had just purchased.

Mike passed away on January 28, 2007 at just 53 years old. The Winter, 2006 issue of *The C4 Newsletter* had a moving testimonial from Tom Rinaldo that is worth rereading today because it really sums up what everyone who knew him felt. Indeed that entire issue could have been taken up solely with remembrances of Mike, but the editor decided to just give brief snippets of longer comments from 30-odd people who knew him well. The sale of Mike's collection of counterfeit British and Irish coppers started exactly a year after he passed away; that Stack's offering of January, 2008 remains the finest cataloguing job for this series ever, ably done by John Kraljevich. This writer treasures the pieces he won from that auction because they were some of Mike's favorite coins (and finds it interesting that not only did Mike and I deal in the same things, we collected the same things as well!).

Mike's first list came out a half-decade before my own, and I remember asking him how he started out. He had worked in a coin store and knew about grading and attribution, though most of what he dealt with were the coins in demand in the late 1970s such as sets of modern coinages, rolls, proof sets and 19th century type coins. But the job also gave him the opportunity to buy interesting things that came in over the counter. One day a group of a couple dozen colonials came in as part of a larger collection and the owner of the store allowed Mike to buy them for a small premium over his cost. Mike had some of the books needed to attribute the coins and would soon acquire the others. When he had gone through the group he found he had a lot of common coins, a couple scarce ones and one that was then considered very rare (my similarities with Mike continues – the first CT copper I ever bought was unattributed at a local coin store, and when I finally tracked down the Miller book I found it to then be a High Rarity-6 variety. I often wonder if I would have been as interested in colonials if it had proven to be a Rarity-1?). Mike knew a few people who seriously collected colonials and when he crossed paths with one of them, he mentioned his find – and when the collector made an offer on the coin for an amount that nearly paid for the entire group, a colonial dealer was born.

Mike Ringo's fixed price lists essentially spanned a decade, from 1982 to 1993. His lists were first done on a typewriter (kids, Google that too) and later on computers with printers of varying quality. This was right before digital photography was available so there are no images to be found on any of his lists. This was also an era where provenance was not as important to collectors – and dealers would often not share information about where coins came from, sometimes even if they were from a name auction (where colonials of more modest value would not be photographed either). Because there are no photographs or weights given in these lists it is often impossible to tell whether some coins appeared on previous (or subsequent) Ringo lists, unless it was a piece he listed a provenance for or the description was specific enough to make it clear when it was reoffered. From personal experience as a dealer a list would never sell out completely and things were either relisted on the next list, sold at a show, or held back for a few lists before being offered again, usually at a lower price.

Also typical for the era are the very brief descriptions – most running to just a single line or two, and rarely more than three lines of text. Much more detailed descriptions of colonials on price lists began with my own lists in 1987 and dealers like Don Mituzas and Tom

Rinaldo also made use of wordiness on their own price lists (which started in 1988 and 1989 respectively) to paint a better picture of the coins being offered, their history and why you, their reader, might want to add them to your collection; the text for a single coin could sometimes run to the better part of a page. This type of cataloguing wasn't a new invention – the Bowers and Ruddy, and Bowers and Merena catalogues had been doing it for years, and the New Netherlands Coin Company sales had pioneered it a few decades earlier still. While the cost of printing and postage made it feasible for auctions that contained a lot of valuable material and went to tens of thousands of potential bidders, it was cost prohibitive to do so for a more modestly valued price list with print runs of just a few hundred copies at most. Mike never got into the longer descriptions, even in his later lists – and he didn't need to. Everyone who received his list knew what to expect when they ordered a coin from Mike. He was a conservative, old-school grader and if he called a coin Fine you knew it would be at least that and more likely a VF by today's standards. If it had a problem it would be mentioned, and if he said it was nice then you could be assured it was. Mike earned that trust and never abused it. On the very rare occasions that he made a mistake – a misattribution, finding a coin had been repaired or something else that affected its value or desirability – he fixed it, even if it was years after the fact.

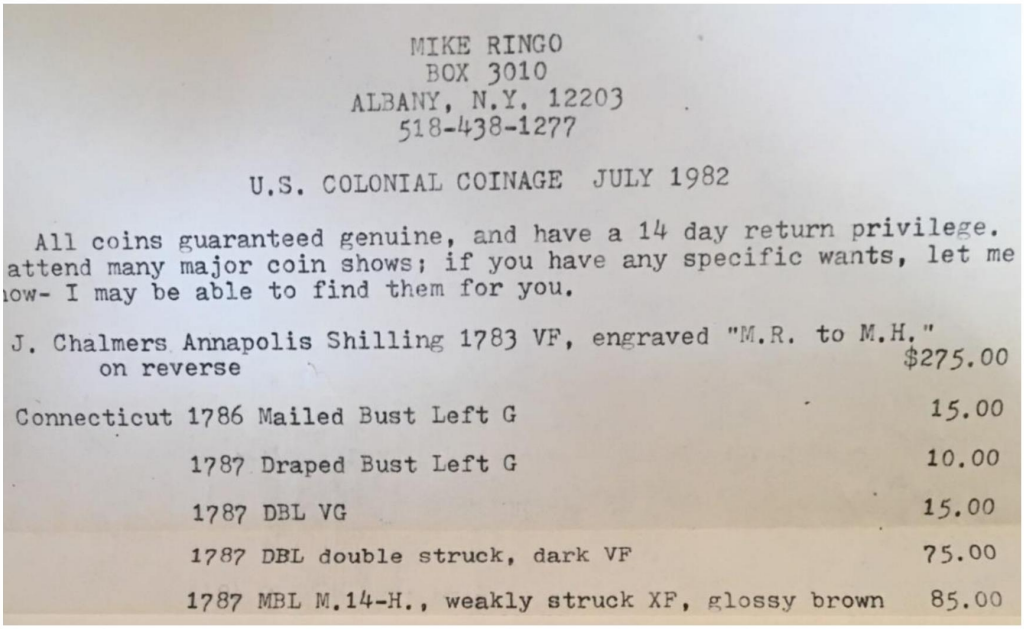
Because many of the people who got Mike's list tossed them away after ordering (the bibliophile should rightly shudder!), I thought it would be nice to do an article on them all.[1] A few years after Mike had passed I reached out to Robert Martin to compare our files of Mike's lists to try and figure out what a complete set consisted of. Life intervened, we each got busy and the project was put on the backburner. Robert eventually sold some of his library to Roger Siboni, and Roger's busy schedule made it even harder to coordinate and compare notes. But eventually we did and found – to both our surprise – that neither of us actually had a complete set of Ringo lists. I knew I was likely missing a few from a year that I had moved and my mail was only sporadically forwarded; what was unexpected was that my group contained a list that was not in Robert's set – or in Mike's own! That list found its way to Roger so his set would be complete with originals (knowing that it would be nicely bound and cared for made parting with it easier), and in return Roger made copies of the lists I was missing; Roger also read a draft of this article and offered useful suggestions. I reached out to other collectors who I suspected would have Ringo's lists but no one who answered had anywhere close to a full set. With the recent passing of Robert Martin it became personally important for me to finish the project that we had talked about doing together for a few years. While a brief table of the dates of each price list would suffice to let people know what was out there, both Robert and I wanted an article that did more. Mike was our friend, and an important part of the colonial hobby and it seemed right to have a more detailed article, describing the highlights and content of each price list, which charts the growth of Mike's business but also gives us a hint as to what was available at the time he was putting out these lists – and what kinds of things interested him and his customers. As far as is known the present list is complete – but if any readers have other Ringo fixed price lists that are not described here I would be interested in knowing about them, and such information would be worth publishing in this newsletter.

In the descriptions that follow the number of colonials on each list will be given and the breakdown of numbers of each series will follow in the order that they were included on

[1] Because this article had been planned but left undone for such a long time the author felt it important to work on it and get it out as soon as possible – which will delay the next installment of my look on colonial counterfeits by series.

each list (which usually started off with CT coppers). The highlights of each list will be mentioned – as well as their asking prices, just to make you cry. Mike usually had a large section called "Miscellaneous" where items that had just one to three examples of a given type would be placed, while any larger quantity of something would usually be given its own section in the main body of the list. There was usually no discernible order by type in the Miscellaneous sections, and when discussing those coins we will generally follow the order that Mike listed them in – though if there was something special in that section it will usually be mentioned last. But every variety on each list will not be recorded here – there are space limitations for any article and there also has to be a reason for you the reader to want to collect these lists for your own library! It is sad that Robert Martin is no longer around to offer some of his memories of Mike, as he likely knew him better than anyone in the hobby. But for those of you who received Mike's lists you may enjoy this trip down memory lane. For those of you who got active after 1993 this article may serve as an introduction to a fine man who left us far too soon.

It does need to be noted that these lists were a way for Mike to sell the more average material that he could not move privately – with some important pieces occasionally included as well. But the better material would seldom have been in inventory long enough to make it to a price list, including the very rare varieties and higher grade coins that were instantly absorbed into some of the finest collections around. Some of these coins still have their provenance attached (like Steve Tannenabum and Robert Martin) which will allow collectors to get a glimpse of what Mike sold privately – and when the Don Partrick and William Anton collections are eventually sold that picture will get even clearer. Suffice it to say that there were few major colonial collections formed in the 1980s and 1990s that did not contain coins bought from Mike!



MIKE RINGO
BOX 3010
ALBANY, N.Y. 12203
518-438-1277

U.S. COLONIAL COINAGE JULY 1982

All coins guaranteed genuine, and have a 14 day return privilege. attend many major coin shows; if you have any specific wants, let me ıow- I may be able to find them for you.

J. Chalmers Annapolis Shilling 1783 VF, engraved "M.R. to M.H." on reverse	$275.00
Connecticut 1786 Mailed Bust Left G	15.00
1787 Draped Bust Left G	10.00
1787 DBL VG	15.00
1787 DBL double struck, dark VF	75.00
1787 MBL M.14-H., weakly struck XF, glossy brown	85.00

The first few lots of Mike Ringo's first price list from July, 1982. Note that most of the CT coppers were not attributed, something not found on any subsequent lists!

- **July, 1982.** The first Ringo price list, a single typewritten and photocopied page, one side only. Just 23 coins offered, ranging from $10-350. One can tell this quick list was issued while Mike was still finding his way as a dealer as five of six CT coppers on the list are unattributed (though the three Fugios, seven Machin's Mills halfpence and two NJ coppers are.) The list included a VF Chalmers Shilling love token with "M.R. to M.H." engraved on the reverse ($275) and a Newman 12-Z.1 Fugio copper in Choice Fine (the most expensive coin at $350) – This would likely be a VF in today's market. The other pieces included a single 1721-H French Colonies 9 Deniers, a Hibernia halfpenny, a Nova Constellatio and a Nova Eborac copper – a modest offering to be sure, and one that seems to have had a very limited distribution as I was only able to track down a couple of original examples of this list.

- **November, 1983.** It took a year and a quarter for Mike's next list, but like the song says, "What a Difference a Year and a Quarter Makes." (I may be misremembering the exact title.) From a single side of a one-page list the next one grew to three sheets of paper, printed on both sides for a total of six individual pages of listings. There is a much more expanded offering including some Federal coinage (two half cents, a dozen large cents, a two-cent piece and four bust half dollars, including an Uncirculated 1816) as well as eight Hard Times Tokens and three Civil War Tokens, for a total of 91 lots. But it's the colonials that interest us – and not only is the offering much larger than the first list, everything is better described as well. There are 61 colonials (including a few copies), with a dozen CT coppers, seven NJ coppers (plus two St. Patricks listed with that series; these will be included in the NJ count in this article, as that is how Mike always listed them,) three Nova Eborac coppers, eight Machin's Mills, three VT coppers, a Pine Tree shilling, a MA cent, an Immunis Columbia copper, five Fugio coppers, a Nova Constellatio, three Rosa Americanas, two Hibernias, four post-Confederation token issues and a silver Washington funeral medal. Clearly between mid-1982 and late 1983 Ringo went from someone offering a few duplicates or things he didn't want to keep to someone who was setting out as an actual dealer. There were still some affordable coins (19 of the colonials and colonial copies were priced at $50 and under), but there were also some significantly more expensive coins – the 1787 Immunis Columbia was graded EF with smooth medium brown surfaces and priced at $1,400, while the Pine Tree Shilling was a Choice VF Noe-1 and priced at $1,200. That silver Washington Funeral medal was graded Fine, with the hole skillfully plugged – and was offered at only $300 (a letter from Mike to me in January, 1984 mentioned that it was still available – had I been smart enough to buy the piece it would likely be a $2-3,000 coin today). Other bargains included a low grade 1787 CT copper, Miller 1.3-L (a steal at $35), a Choice EF Nova Eborac, an EF Ryder 20 VT copper, and an uncirculated Newman 8-B Fugio (at $350, yes Unc. Fugios were once this cheap!).

- **February, 1984.** A small reduction in size, this list is only two sheets, printed both sides for four pages; the descriptions to follow will give the number of pages of each list with the understanding that those consist of half that number of sheets of paper, printed on both sides unless otherwise noted. There are 68 coins offered – 52 colonials, 6 copies and 9 U.S. large cents. This list is a return to more budget-friendly offerings, the most expensive coins being a 1787 Nova Eborac (figure left, VF at $325) and a Vlack 6-76A Machin's Mills halfpenny (from the Roper sale, VF, and all of $300); only ten coins were priced at over $100 while 45 were priced at $50 and under. The rarest coin on the list was not a colonial, but an 1804 Large Cent, Sheldon 266 in rough Good but priced at just $200. The colonials and state coinages were mostly of common varieties in middle and lower grades with little that would be considered special today, but still collectible.

- **April, 1984.** A bit of a surprise to get another list just two months later – and a much larger one too, six pages, with a total of 114 different lots offered. The non-colonial items shrank as

Mike found his true calling – there are just three large cents (as well as five pieces of colonial paper and nine numismatic books and auction catalogues offered). This list featured a good mix, with 26 coins priced at $100 or over and 74 priced at $50 or under. There are 35 CT coppers, which included the two most expensive lots – a VF 1785 Miller 7.1-D (at $450) and a Choice EF 1787 Miller 1.2-C "Muttonhead" type (at $425); there were some rarer varieties offered in affordable grades, including 1787 Miller numbers 33.30-EE, 33.40-Z.2 and 40-N, all of which were considered R-7 at the time (all have since fallen in rarity, but they were all priced here at $100 or less). There were eleven NJ coppers including a low grade Maris 12-G and 49-f, three Nova Eborac Coppers, eight Machin's Mills, nine VT coppers, five Fugios and ten pieces of Washingtonia (some post-colonial, but the group included yet another silver Funeral Medal, this one holed and graded VF and priced at $350). There were single examples of a Massachusetts Cent, Mott token, North American token, Hibernia Halfpenny, Voce Populi copper and two Nova Constellatio coppers.

- **September, 1984.** Four pages, a smaller list with just 72 lots – all of them colonial coins, with no large cents or other Federal coinage. Another modestly priced list, the most expensive coin being $250 and 46 of the lots priced at $50 or less. There are 28 CT coppers, four Fugio coppers (two of them New Haven "restrikes"), two Nova Eboracs, three VT coppers, eight NJ coppers, four Massachusetts Cents, three pieces of Washingtonia, and a smattering of other material under the Miscellaneous section. There is a counterfeit French Colonies Sous Marques and three different British Evasion coppers – both of which became areas that Mike collected, but at this early stage it appears he just stocked them as inventory (more similarities between Mike and this writer who collects counterfeit French Colonials and evasion coppers too). Another list with nothing too very rare, though there were some scarcer state coinage varieties, usually in lower grades.

- **December, 1984.** Back to six pages, and another larger list with 134 lots, again with no Federal coinage. There are 44 CT coppers, 26 NJ coppers (including a pair of St. Patrick's farthings), 12 VT coppers, eight Massachusetts coppers (including three half cents), three Nova Eboracs, seven Hibernia halfpennies, four Voce Populi halfpennies, four Rosa Americanas and five Washington items; some of these types are included in a "late additions" section at the end. A Miscellaneous section includes a couple French Colonies pieces, Virginia halfpennies, later tokens, Nova Constellatio coppers and a single Fugio cent. There are also seven lots of colonial paper money, one of which was a set of eight different denomination Uncirculated Rhode Island notes from 1780 that were the highest price lot on the list at $325. There were only 14 lots priced at over $100. This price range became Mike's signature for his lists (with a few exceptions) though of course the more expensive material would be sold privately.

- **February, 1985.** A smaller list, four pages, and with 79 lots – but only 58 of them colonial coins, the rest being five lots of colonial paper, 16 lots of US Federal coinage, and a single Hard Times Token. There are 16 lots of CT coppers, five NJ coppers, five Massachusetts Cents, five VT coppers, five Fugio coppers and six pieces of Washingtonia. 15 lots of Miscellaneous included single examples of an American Plantation Token, a Rosa Americana penny, a Hibernia farthing, a Voce Populi halfpenny, a Nova Eborac, and a Virginia halfpenny as well as two Machin's Mills halfpennies, three Nova Constellatio coppers, two Talbot Allum & Lee tokens and two colonial copies. The most expensive coin was a Choice EF Newman 4-E Club Rays Fugio at $825, while a Massachusetts "Horned Eagle" Cent, ex Roper collection, was close at $725. A 7-M Massachusetts cent in EF was listed at $350 and a lettered edge Washington Grate Halfpenny was $325. The list had a higher percentage of three-figure coins, 25 of them at $100 or over – but Mike also had 37 lots at under $50, wisely catering to collectors in all ranges.

- **May, 1985.** Six pages, 118 total lots. There are 37 CT coppers, 11 VT coppers, 12 NJ coppers, a Nova Eborac, eight Machin's Mills halfpennies, three Massachusetts Cents, two Nova Constellatio coppers, and 12 pieces of Washingtonia; some of these are in a late additions section at the end. A Miscellaneous section has a Fugio, three each of Rosa Americana and Hibernia, two Voce Populi coppers, a Kentucky token, seven copies and electrotypes of colonials and seven Hard Times Tokens. The late additions start with an Oak Tree shilling at $375. The most expensive piece was a VF Ryder-6 Vermont Landscape with almost no defects at $600 – though that was not the rarest piece by far, as one of the Nova Constellatios was the extremely rare 1786 issue, a cleanly worn AG piece priced at a tear-inducing $400 (it is circled on my copy of the list and I remember calling him immediately on it, wondering how I would pay for it – but it was predictably already sold). This list also had three coins sold before it was issued, with "SOLD" written where those lot numbers would have been. While an earlier list had more expensive items, this was Mike's most impressive list to this point – with a good range of price points, an extreme rarity and some scarce varieties in most series, as well as a few very choice coins that would have appealed to collectors of every level.

- **July, 1985.** Four pages, just 60 lots, ten of which are Hard Times Tokens. There are 19 CT coppers, and all the rest of the colonials are listed under Miscellaneous but are fairly limited – three Hibernias, two French Colonies, one Massachusetts cent, three NJ coppers, one Vermont, one Virginia, three Machin's Mills, two Fugios, one Nova Constellatio, three pieces of Washingtonia and some colonial copies. Also included in this section was a 1736 Auctori Plebis evasion copper with Hispaniola reverse priced at $250 – just a bit under the $300 an EF Fugio copper was listed at. There are no major rarities, but there are some scarcer varieties; only 13 pieces were priced at $100 or more and the offering was broadly affordable collectible grade material.

- **November, 1985.** Six pages, 132 lots – but 52 of those are Hard Times Tokens. There are 26 CT coppers, a Pine Tree Shilling, four Massachusetts cents, eight NJ coppers, two Nova Eboracs, four Machin's Mills, five Vermonts, eight Washington coins, and four French Colonies issues (including a jeton). A Miscellaneous section has three post Confederation tokens, a Rosa American halfpenny, three Voce Populi coppers, two Nova Constellatio coppers and some copies of colonial coins. That Pine Tree shilling, a VF Noe-16, was the most expensive coin at $650, and there was also a nice EF 1787 Connecticut Miller 1.2-C "Muttonhead" at $375, but most of the list was more affordable material. The large group of Hard Times Tokens might surprise collectors today, as we see them as something quite distinct from colonials. But in 1985 there was no C4 club and while *The Colonial Newsletter* was in print the only place colonial collectors had to go to meet with like-minded souls was the Early American Coppers club (EAC). While EAC has more recently become mostly half and large cent oriented, in the 1970s and 1980s it welcomed articles on colonials (especially the shorter, chattier articles that didn't work for CNL) and Hard Times Tokens – and most dealers at an EAC convention would have an array of all these types in their display cases. Mike was expanding his inventory to reach more collectors and in this and the next few years Hard Times Tokens were especially hot items on the market; they were certainly an area that Mike enjoyed, and they remained a major part of most of his lists right up to the final one.

- **February, 1986.** Four pages, 72 lots, of which 19 are Hard Times Tokens. There are 15 CT coppers, ten NJ coppers, four VT coppers, and seven pieces of Washingtonia. The Miscellaneous section includes a Mott token, a pair of Fugios and Nova Eborac coppers, and single examples of Machin's Mills halfpence, French Colonies Sous Marques, Voce Populi and Virginia halfpennies, a Talbot Alum & Lee cent, a Rosa Americana halfpenny and some

colonial copies; the 1736 Auctori Plebis/Hispaniola evasion copper offered two lists earlier is here reoffered at a more appropriate $175. The most intriguing coin on the list was a 1783 Washington Draped Bust cent restrike in brass, with a plain edge which Mike described as a "previously unknown die combination, struck at the Soho mint before William Taylor acquired the dies and made the later Proof restrikes. Unique." It was, fittingly, the most expensive piece on the list at $600. Things like this make the Ringo lists an overlooked resource – and always made them a thrill to read whenever they arrived.

- **March, 1986.** Six pages, 104 lots, a surprisingly large list issued just a month after the previous one. There are 38 Hard Times tokens, four 19th century tokens and nine lots of literature included in that count. Of the 52 lots of colonials there are 22 CT coppers, six NJ coppers, five VT coppers, four Fugio coppers and five French Colonies pieces. The Miscellaneous section included a very low grade Pine Tree shilling (Noe-30, Good, at $150!), a Hibernia farthing, a pair of Machin's Mills, four Washington pieces, an Elephant token and a New Jersey and French Colonies piece that were included in the above counts for those series. The most expensive piece was a dramatically double struck 1787 Connecticut, Miller 33.36-T.2 with two full dates, the second strike 60% off-center and was $600 (it's description as "unimpaired olive-brown surfaces; a real showpiece" suggests where it likely went and collectors may have a chance to see it at auction in the near future).

- **May, 1986.** Six pages – this is the first time in the series since his first offering that Mike didn't alternate between six and four page lists, an indication that his business was growing and that there were enough customers to absorb the material. There are 105 lots on the list, including 20 Hard Times Tokens. In terms of colonials there were 20 CT coppers, 18 NJ coppers, a Pine Tree shilling (Noe-5 in VG at $225, the second most expensive coin on the list), three Massachusetts coppers, three VT coppers, and five Fugio coppers, while the Miscellaneous section included a Choice Uncirculated Talbot Allum & Lee cent (the most expensive piece on the list at $500) and an AU Virginia halfpenny, a Kentucky and Franklin Press token, two Washington pieces, three Nova Constellatio coppers, three Hibernia coppers, two Voce Populi halfpence, a Machin's Mill, three French Colonies pieces, a couple of copies and for the first time a couple of group lots – one of five different low grade colonials (at $25 for the lot) and the other offering five different British "Conder tokens" in various grades (a group graded EF to AU, many with original red, was $60). This section also contained a different Auctori Plebis/Hispaniola evasion along with a uniface Auctori Plebis type which were probably the rarest individual coins on the list.

- **July, 1986.** Six pages, 110 lots, 26 of them Hard Times Tokens. There are 18 CT coppers, 19 NJ coppers (the first time there were more of them than Connecticuts), eight Massachusetts coppers (two of them half cents), four VT coppers, five Fugios and ten Washington issues. The Miscellaneous sections has three French Colonies pieces, two Rosa Americanas, a Hibernia, three Voce Populis, two Nova Constellatios, two Talbot Allum & Lee pieces (one a mule), and single examples of the 1787 Auctori Plebis token, Mott token, Franklin Press Token, Virginia halfpenny, Kentucky token, North American Token and a Castorland half dollar restrike. Six of the coins offered came with photo certificates issued by the Colonial American Coin Club (a club that never actually existed but was instead an investment vehicle started by First Coinvestors Inc., the parent company for Pine Tree auctions; these certificates were supposed to be signed by either Walter Breen or Don Taxay during the early-to-mid 1970s to assure buyers of the grade and authenticity of the coins, but a number of them seen over the years have those signatures forged by other company officials). A Newman 13-X Fugio in Uncirculated with faded red was the most expensive colonial at $425 while a Choice EF Nelson 7 Voce Populi was second at $350. 30 of the 84 lots of colonials were priced at $100 and over,

a high percentage for Mike's lists to this point – though there were plenty of affordable pieces at under $50 as well. The highest priced piece on the list was actually not a colonial, but a very rare Low 155 Hard Times Token in EF, priced at $550; one of these in the same grade sold at auction in 2017 for exactly $2 more than that price – a useful reminder that not every investment goes up in value and when a popular series loses collector interest bad things can happen.

- **November, 1986.** Six pages, 150 lots, Mike's largest list to date, with 26 of the lots being Hard Times Tokens. This list starts with Mike's coin show schedule for November and December, 1986 – six different shows in New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Mike worked hard and put in the hours which allowed him to find his inventory – and the occasional cherry pick that paid even better. This list has 18 CT coppers, 20 NJ coppers, 11 Machin's Mills halfpennies, eight VT coppers, and nine pieces of Washingtonia. The Miscellaneous section included a pair of Massachusetts (half cent and cent), seven French Colonies pieces, a Mott token, an Elephant token, three Talbot Allum & Lee tokens, four Nova Constellatio, a 1787 Auctori Plebis, a pair of 1781 North American tokens, three Rosa Americanas, four Hibernias, and three Voce Populis. The list ends with 34 lots of restrikes and copies of colonial coins. The most expensive piece was a low grade VG Ryder-22 VT copper which was priced at $350 – the variety in that grade can be found for less than half that amount today, but it was considered much rarer when Mike issued this list. 25 bucks less would have bought a Choice EF Elephant token, a much better long-term buy. Of the 98 colonials coins (not including the copies) 40 of them were priced at over $100 and there were more at over $200 than on any of Mike's previous lists. But in that same group there were also 34 pieces priced at $50 and under – while most of the Hard Times tokens and the colonial copies were priced under that level as well. This was Mike's most active year in terms of issuing lists, with five different ones put out and 541 lots total (though some lots may have been reappearances of the same coin on more than one list). One reason for this many lists were rumors that Bowers and Merena auctions would be selling an amazing colonial collection the following year – and Mike (and others) were building war chests for this event. There was an incredible amount of behind-the-scenes dealing and trading going on in 1986, with collector Robert Martin moving many "package deals" and other collectors wondering which body parts they could sell to raise cash!

- **February, 1987.** Four pages, 85 lots – a rare return to a smaller list, likely due to selling so many coins in 1986! Of those lots 33 are Hard Times Tokens, leaving just 52 colonials. There are a paltry nine CT coppers, six NJ coppers, nine VT coppers, six Fugios and seven Washington items. The Miscellaneous section included an Oak Tree sixpence (a VF Noe-22, the most expensive piece on the list at $650), a pair of French Colonies and Nova Consellatios, as well as single examples of Rosa Americana, Hibernia, Voce Populi, Virginia, Mott and Talbot Allum & Lee tokens. There are both a 1787 Auctori Plebis token and a uniface Auctori Plebis evasion. While not the most expensive coin on the list the most interesting was certainly a "1776" Continental Dollar – a VG coin with a hole at the center which was priced at $250; it has most likely been repaired since, a zero added to that price, and then doubled (if anyone can contact Mr. Peabody and his Wayback Machine, this would be a good coin to buy!). In the Fugio section a nice New Haven restrike – in silver! – was priced at just $550 – compare prices today and weep. The second most expensive coin at $600 was an AU Mott token – a coin that is available for about the same price level today: you pays your money and you takes your choice. For a small list this one upped the price point – 24 of the 52 colonials were over $100, but 16 of them were over $200 and there were more $400 and over coins than any previous list. This was surely not a coincidence – by this time the rumor mentioned above proved to be true and Bowers and Merena would be selling the Frederick Taylor collection of colonials the following month, March 1987. That sale contained the finest and most complete collection of die varieties of state coinages offered at least since the 1919 Henry Miller auction – and this

undoubtedly explains the very low number of state coinages that Mike offered on this list, as collectors of those series would certainly be waiting for the auction (and dealers would want to wait to figure out how to price things after such an event – if the auction results were strong, asking prices for inventory would also increase).

- **April, 1987.** Six pages, 148 lots, 18 of them Hard Times Tokens. The first list after the Taylor sale where Mike purchased the vast majority of group lots – which included some really nice coins, just not as nice as the frontline collection pieces. Not unexpectedly then, this list has far more state coinages than the previous one – and more CT coppers than any earlier list, a whopping 80 different lots! There are 16 NJ coppers (four of them St. Patrick's pieces), just three Vermonts, four Massachusetts cents, and 7 Machin's Mills halfpence. The Miscellaneous section had a pair of Rosa Americana, Voce Populis, and French Colonies, a single Fugio and Talbot Allum & Lee cent, a North American token, a pair of Washington issues, a Pitt medal, a couple colonial copies and two different types of uniface Auctori Plebis token evasion coppers. Mike marked items from the Taylor sale with an asterisk before the price – 56 of the 80 CT coppers were from that source (as were five NJ coppers, a Massachusetts cent, a Rosa, a Voce Populi and a Washington piece); a few were identified to specific lot number. With 80 CT copper lots offered there were a couple of very scarce varieties, but nothing super rare – those pieces were going to be sold or traded privately in the months following the Taylor sale. The most expensive coin wasn't in the Connecticut series but was a Maris 50-f Head Left NJ copper that was boldly double struck, the second strike 50% off center – an amazingly rare error, and a bargain even then at $750. One of the other bargains on this list was an example of the recently discovered Vlack 24-72C Machin's, a well-worn piece but priced at just $65. Only 21 of the 80 CT coppers were priced at $100 or more, while 18 of the remaining colonials were above that level as well (as were nine of the Hard Times Tokens). Chatting after the Taylor sale Mike joked that he now had "a lifetime supply of CT coppers" – yet most of them were gone in well under a year! While the New Jersey collectors rightly think of their series as the King of State Coppers, there are far more CT copper varieties and in the decades of 1985-2005 collectors absorbed an amazing number of individual coins, with prices mostly increasing across the board in that period.

- **June, 1987.** The rare five-page list, the third sheet blank on one side, 113 lots, 25 of which are Hard Times Tokens. CT coppers remain the bulk of the colonial offering, with 51 lots, while there are nine NJ coppers, five Massachusetts coppers, and four pieces of Washingtonia. The Miscellaneous section include a single Vermont and Nova Eborac, two Nova Constellatios, a 1787 Auctori Plebis, three French Colonies, a pair of Virginia halfpennies, a North American token, a Rosa Americana penny, three Hibernias, two Voce Populis and a couple copies. Only a couple of pieces are identified as Taylor coins, though likely more of them were. Over half (45 out of 88) of the colonials were priced at $100 or more, with the most expensive pieces being a Washington North Wales halfpenny of the regular type but in Choice AU condition at $450, and a 1787 New Jersey Maris 63-s in EF at the same price. The only other piece above $300 was a 1787 Connecticut Miller 43.1-Y in Choice EF or better (almost certainly an AU in today's market) at $425.

- **October, 1987.** Six pages, 165 lots, 45 of them Hard Times Tokens. The 120 colonials return to pre-Taylor levels, with 29 CT coppers, 15 NJ coppers, eight Vermonts, one Nova Eborac, six Machin's Mills Halfpennies, a low grade Pine Tree shilling, five Massachusetts coppers and a larger offering of 16 Washington items. The Miscellaneous section is also much larger, with 39 different lots that contain six Nova Constellatios, one each of Mott, American Plantation and Elephant tokens, three different Pitt halfpennies, a Virginia halfpenny, two North American tokens, three Talbot Allum & Lee cents, five Rosa Americanas, four Voce

Populis, seven French Colonies and four colonial copies (including a very rare gold striking of the 1956 New England Numismatic Association medal that had the design of a Massachusetts cent). One of the Pitt halfpennies was the priciest coin at $800 in EF, while a Ryder 13 Vermont "Britannia" variety in Choice EF was $750 and a Ryder 2 Vermont Landscape copper was close at $700. 53 of the colonial lots were priced at over $100. A New Jersey specialist would have been happy to find a "whatsit" on this list – a Maris 20-N with the obverse completely re-engraved to make a new variety ($125); if you own this coin, you now have a provenance for the piece, and you're welcome. This would be the last year with four Ringo price lists issued, at least partially due to Mike increasing his travels to find material – and to sell directly to customers.

- **April, 1988.** Six pages, 138 lots, 54 of them Hard Times Tokens. The colonials include 28 CT coppers, nine NJ coppers, seven VT coppers, two pieces of Massachusetts silver and four Massachusetts coppers. The large Miscellaneous section has three French Colonies, a Pitt token, a Machin's Mill, three Nova Constellatios, a Fugio, a Kentucky token, a Franklin Press token, three Talbot Allum & Lee cents, two pieces of Washingtonia, and nine copies of colonials. Also include are a couple of Betts-listed and other early medals, a pair of hand-engraved document seals, a group of Masonic chapter pennies in silver, brockage strikes of a Canadian Bank Token and US large cent, and an off center 1886 Liberty Nickel – certainly an eclectic offering! The most expensive coin on the list was a Noe-33 Pine Tree Sixpence in AU condition at $2,500, followed by an EF Ryder 31 VT copper at $1,500 and a Noe-30 Oak Tree twopence in VF/EF at $1,250. An AU Nova Constellatio could be had for $600, and an EF Pitt halfpenny at $675. 46 of the 84 colonial and Miscellaneous lots were priced at over $100, most well over that figure (though only three Hard Times tokens were over that level). There was still a good offering of lower priced material at the under-$50 mark, but Mike was clearly trying to offer more expensive material on his price lists as well as in his private dealings. This is partially because he was no longer the "only game in town." In February of this year his friend Don Mituzas issued his first dated price list as well.

- **August, 1988.** Five pages, the third sheet printed just on one side, 122 lots, 27 of which are Hard Times Tokens. There are 27 CT coppers, 18 NJ coppers and eight VT coppers. The Miscellaneous section has six Machin's Mills halfpennies, five Washington issues, a pair each of French Colonies, Rosa Americana and Virginias, a Fugio copper, two North American tokens, a Franklin Press token, four Talbot Allum & Lee cents, a Bolen Higley/Confederatio mule, nine early Betts-listed medals, a counterstamped 2 Reale, a Lion Daalder and a few lots from the previous list reoffered. There are no four-figure coins on this list, and the most expensive piece this time is the AU Nova Constellatio from the previous list, still priced at $600. 52 of the 95 colonials were priced at $100 or over (as were four of the Hard Times Tokens) and most of those were in the $100-250 range.

- **March, 1989:** Six pages, 155 lots, all of them colonials (i.e. no Hard Times Tokens). One of the best listings in terms of die varieties since his post Taylor sale offering, this one has 45 CT coppers, 42 NJ coppers, 10 VT coppers, 5 Fugio coppers, and 14 pieces of Washingtonia, including a VF Washington Born Virginia copper that was the most expensive piece on the list by far at $2,350. The Miscellaneous section has seven Nova Constellatios, seven Talbot Allum & Lee cents, an Elephant token, a pair of American Plantation tokens (one of them a Sideways 4 variety), a Rosa Americana halfpenny, a Hibernia farthing, a pair of French Colonies, a low grade Pitt halfpenny, a Virginia halfpenny, a Massachusetts cent, a North American token, a 1787 Auctori Plebis token and two Machin's Mills. The list ends with 11 colonial copies, including a Wyatt NE Sixpence in silver (at $450). A VF Maris 18-J New Jersey was the second most expensive coin at $650 (and described in enough detail that a collector who has one in

that grade may be able to add this list as a provenance), followed by the even rarer Maris 40-b in Fine at $600; the AU Nova from the previous two lists is now at $500 and a good buy at that level. 64 of the 155 pieces were over $100 – but there were still very affordable coins (only 9 of the 45 CT coppers and 15 of the 42 NJ coppers were over $100). Certainly one of Mike's better all-around price lists, this writer's copy has 22 coins circled that I wanted to buy – and all of these were being bought for inventory purposes, as my own first price list was issued slightly before this one came out. Yet another dealer entered the fray at this time, with Don Valenziano putting out his first dated price list in November, 1988.

- **June, 1989.** Six pages, 165 lots, with a return of Hard Times Tokens – 49 of them. The colonials include 26 CT coppers, 29 NJ coppers, 19 pieces of Washingtonia, five colonial copies and the reoffering of some of the Betts medals on the previous list. The large Miscellaneous section has three Vermonts, two Massachusetts, a Machin's Mills halfpenny, six Nova Constellatio coppers, an Elephant token, a Hibernia, four Rosa Americanas, a Plantation token, four French Colonies, two North American tokens, two Kentucky tokens, three Talbot Allum & Lee cents and a 1787 Auctori Plebis token. The Washington Born Virginia piece from the previous list is again the most expensive coin offered, now at $2,200, but the next most expensive coin is significantly less, a $500 1794 Talbot Allum & Lee in prooflike Uncirculated. 69 of the 116 lots of colonials were $100 or over – and nearly half of those were over $250. A number of these pieces likely came from the Oechsner collection held by Stack's, but their provenance is not noted on Mike's list (this auction also furnished a number of rarities on my own first price list). Mike's competition grew even more, as the month before this offering dealer Tom Rinaldo issued his own first price list. The half decade of 1989-1993 was really the Golden Era for colonial coin price lists and collectors were clearly spoiled for choice between these lists, auctions and dealers setting up at most major coin shows. This also forced each of us dealers to up our own games – we had to compete on price, on quality, on selection, on descriptions, on what we bought and where we bought it. The fact that there were a number of active dealers in what was arguably the strongest collector market to this time is not a coincidence – the more dealers in a given field the more chance that potential new collectors will run across them and get interested in the area. More dealers = more collectors = more demand. That forumla has not been true for the last five or years, and one can argue that recent auction results for things other than super high grade or extremely rare pieces reflects that formula breaking down.

- **January, 1990.** Five pages, 138 lots, 38 of which were Hard Times Tokens, leaving a round 100 colonial items. There are 21 CT coppers, 24 NJ coppers, nine VT coppers, eight Massachusetts cents, nine Fugio coppers and six Washington pieces. The Miscellaneous section has four Machin's Mills halfpence, four Nova Constellatios, six French Colonies, a Mott token, a pair of Talbot Allum & Lee cents, a Virginia, a North American token and four colonial copies. A more modestly priced list, 47 of the colonials were priced at $100 or more, but only 16 were over $250. The most expensive piece on the list was a Ryder-21 VT copper in Fine at $600 – a coin that unfortunately has not held its rarity and would be obtainable for significantly less money than that today.

- **August, 1990.** Five pages, 168 lots, 58 of which were Hard Times Tokens. Definitely a smaller list, with 25 CT coppers, a strong 34 NJ coppers, seven VT coppers, one piece of Massachusetts silver, three Massachusetts coppers, two Nova Eboracs, two Mott tokens, four Fugio coppers, six Nova Constellatios, five pieces of Washingtonia, and 13 French Colonies – for some of these series this is the first time Mike separated them out into their own sections instead of under the Miscellaneous category because other dealers were doing so and it was much easier for collectors to follow. The Miscellaneous category shrunk here to just eight pieces, including a Bar Cent in Fine (at a tear-inducing $150!), a Franklin Press token, a North American token,

a Virginia, one each of a Hibernia farthing and halfpenny, a Voce Populi halfpenny and one Betts medal. The Noe-6 Pine Tree Shilling in Fine was the most expensive piece at $850, a cheap price in today's market – but other higher-priced coins haven't fared as well. A VF Maris 43-Y NJ copper at $600 is retail today, as is $750 for an EF Nova Eborac, and $500 for an EF Mott token. Mrs. Norweb's VF 1786 Miller 6-K CT copper was a good buy at $450, though VF's of that variety have since sold for half the price – and more than double the price too (of course the 1990 dollar was stronger than the 2019 dollar so relatively speaking those coins are actually less expensive today). 48 of the 110 colonials were priced at $100 or more, but that left plenty of truly affordable coins, including two different attributed Fugio coppers at $25 each. All but two of the French Colonies coins were priced at $50 or less – and the two that were higher were just $60 and $65. This list only used ¼ of the last page so Mike filled the empty space with a mail-in order form. Few would have used that and instead would have immediately picked up the phone to call him with an order – but putting it in filled a lot of empty space, which seems to be something that bugged all of us who issued printed price lists!

- **October, 1990.** Four pages, 121 lots, 20 of them Hard Times Tokens. There are 21 CT coppers, 15 NJ coppers, two pieces of Massachusetts silver, nine Massachusetts coppers, five VT coppers, two Nova Eboracs, six Machin's Mills, six Virginia halfpennies, and six pieces of Washingtonia. The Miscellaneous section starts with an EF brass Rhode Island ship medal, three Nova Constellatios, one each of Plantation, Kentucky and North American tokens, three Talbot Allum & Lee cents, two Fugio coppers, five Rosa Americanas, six Hibernias, two Voce Populis and three rare Bolen and Robinson struck copies of colonials. A VF/EF Noe-34 Pine Tree sixpence was the most expensive colonial on the list at $1,500, but was far from the most expensive coin – there is a SILVER Hard Times Token, Low62A in EF at $3,500. The Rhode Island ship medal was the second most expensive colonial at $750. Fully 50 of the 101 colonials are priced at $100 or more, and 24 of them are at $250 and over. This was the first list that Mike attributed the Virginia halfpence by die variety – he mentioned to me afterwards that he hated me and Tom for doing it on our own lists, because now he had to do it too and it is certainly not the easiest series to attribute, especially in lower grades. For a smaller list this one had a high percentage of more expensive material – this a result of the increased competition among dealers to put better quality coins front and center on their lists. The previous list was issued before the ANA convention and this list was issued shortly after, the new pieces likely things Mike purchased at that show. The annual summer ANA show was the most important one for dealers and collectors in the 1980s and into the first half of the 1990s – dealers would save up their best material and collectors would save up money and the atmosphere was electric. Since then there have been a number of very large shows added to the calendar, all across the country, with the result that dealer no longer hoard their best material for the ANA convention. For most colonial collectors of this time the best show for us was the ANA, followed by the EAC convention, but that was about to change!

- **January, 1991.** Six pages, 204 lots, 37 of them Hard Times Tokens. This was Mike's largest list to date. There are 46 CT coppers, 30 NJ coppers, a Nova Eborac and Talbot Allum & Lee (both listed under New York coppers), six Machin's Mills, one piece of Massachusetts silver (a Choice AU Noe 1 Pine Tree shilling at $2,500, the most expensive coin on the list), and four VT coppers. The Miscellaneous section has four pieces of Washingtonia, two Nova Constellatios, a Virginia halfpenny, two Fugio coppers, a North American token, four Voce Populis (one of them a farthing), three Rosa Americanas, two French Colonies pieces and three Hibernias. This writers' similarities of interest with Mike gets a new wrinkle on this list – some 46 British evasion coppers are also included, listed by Atkins numbers, with a nice introduction to the series included; Mike also collected this series so predictably there are no varieties that are extremely rare, but it was one of the largest individual offerings in decades. The colonial

section ends with six struck copies and two group lots of colonials. The evasions skew the pricing a bit since none were more than $50 and only a few were more than $25. But for the 113 lots of colonials 40 were priced at $100 more, with 49 priced at $50 or less which made for a well-rounded list of affordable pieces. While the other colonial dealers putting out lists offered coins in all price ranges Mike probably had a higher percentage in the $50 and under category, which gave him a distinct market niche – something that today would mostly be eBay material, but which allowed him to attract beginning collectors who then grew into more advanced collectors that did a lot of private business with Mike.

- **June, 1991.** Mike's smallest list at just three pages, though it had 124 lots on it, but in a smaller font size than earlier ones (the move from typewriter to computer complete); 16 of the lots were Hard Times Tokens. There are 30 CT coppers, 33 NJ coppers, and ten VT coppers. The larger Miscellaneous section has two Massachusetts coppers, three Machin's Mills, a Mott token, six Nova Constellatios, two Fugio coppers, five Washington issues, three Hibernias, two Rosa Americanas, three North American tokens, three Voce Populis and five French Colonies pieces. 41 of the colonials were priced at $100 or more, but only 14 were priced at $250 or more. A Choice AU Mott token was the most expensive coin at $775, with a Choice EF Maris 39-a NJ copper right behind at $750.

- **December, 1991.** A slightly larger list at four pages, and though there were just 116 lots, all of them were colonials. There are 37 CT coppers, 30 NJ coppers, two pieces of Massachusetts silver, eight Massachusetts coppers, and five VT coppers. The Miscellaneous section starts with a "1776" Continental dollar – graded Fine with many rim bumps and some small counterstamps in six of the rings it was priced at just $600 – this wasn't the most expensive coin on the list but it was certainly the best buy! This section continues with a pair of Machin's Mills halfpence, three Fugio coppers, four Virginia halfpennies (three of them Uncirculated), six Nova Constellatios, two 1787 Auctori Plebis tokens, a Plantations token, two Hibernias, three Voce Populis, a pair of Kentucky tokens, a Washington Ship halfpenny, a single Talbot Allum & Lee cent, and six French Colonies issues. The most expensive coin was an AU Maris 62-q NJ copper at $950 – with a provenance from Hays, Hall, Brand, Ryder, Boyd and Ford. 65 of the 116 lots were priced at $100 or more. Also in the best buy category was an AU but scratched 1787 Miller 19-g.4 CT copper from the Hessberg collection – this was one of the White Ink on Edge types then thought to be ex Dr. Hall, and priced at just $425. This was the last year with three or more Ringo price lists issued.

- **April, 1992.** Five pages, 143 lots, 24 of which were Hard Times Tokens. There are 36 CT coppers, a whopping 43 NJ coppers, five VT coppers, two Nova Eboracs, nine Machin's Mills, and five Massachusetts coppers. The Miscellaneous section has four Nova Constellatios, two Virginia halfpennies, five French Colonies pieces, three Hibernias, two 1787 Auctori Plebis tokens, a Plantation token, a North American token and one Washington piece, a Double Head cent. It was well over a year since the previous price list, and this one certainly upped Mike's game a bit. Of the 119 colonial lots 62 were priced at $100 and over (as were nearly half of the Hard Times tokens); of those 62 lots exactly half of them were priced at $250 or more. The most expensive coin on the list was also the rarest, a 1787 NJ copper, Maris 35-J over a CT copper in Fine/VG at $950 – but horsehead lovers would have also been excited by a Maris 34-v in VG/F at $750. The appearance at auction of the first part of the Ford duplicate colonials began with the Boyd-Brand-Ryder and Frontenac auctions by Bowers and Merena – and colonial dealers were well poised to either buy directly from those auctions, or to buy the downgrades from collectors who bought rarer varieties in those sales. Despite Mike putting out just two price lists in 1992, colonial collectors were spoiled for choice – Don Mituzas had one this year, Don Valenziano had two and Tom Rinaldo had three (I didn't have one this year, so

Mike certainly did better than me!). While the early 1990s saw a large influx of the quantity of colonials into the marketplace these were seldom front-line coins – though Ford's secondary, tertiary and whatever coins were still usually pretty darned good!

- **September, 1993.** A whopping eight pages and 249 lots, 52 of which were Hard Times Tokens, but the 197 lots of colonials being Mike's largest offering; it was also the largest gap between price lists since he started issued them, which likely explains why he had accumulated so many pieces to offer. This was also his final price list, and it's clear that he was moving as much of his inventory as possible. There are an amazing 92 CT coppers, 47 NJ coppers, a Nova Eborac, seven Machin's Mills, five Massachusetts coppers, and 23 French Colonies pieces. The Miscellaneous section has a pair of VT coppers, a Fugio, two Castorland half dollars (one of them an original in silver!), five Nova Constellatios, a Kentucky token, one Virginia halfpenny, two Washington pieces, two Voce Populis and six Hibernia halfpennies. The silver Castorland was the most expensive piece by far at $3,500. There were 91 lots of the 197 colonials (and 14 of the Hard Times Tokens) priced at $100 or more, and 40 of those colonials were priced at $250 or more. If one is to go out, it might as well be with a bang, and this was Mike's most valuable offering as well, with a bit over $31,000 in list prices.

The year 1993 was a bittersweet one in colonial numismatics. It was the year that this club, C4, was begun (with Michael Hodder, Tom Rinaldo, Don Scarinci, and this writer as the four founders, the first two no longer active in the hobby, the third active in different areas of the hobby, but not colonials) – this marked a new era for us all and is justly worth celebrating. But 1993 was also the year that much of another era came to an end – that of the printed fixed price list. It was the last year that Mike Ringo would issue a list – and the last dated lists of both Don Mituzas and Don Valenziano were issued in this year as well.[2] Tom Rinaldo held out until early 1994 for his final list – but that was the only one he issued after July, 1993. I somehow stuck it out, though lists became increasingly infrequent.

The founding of C4 and ending of price lists were not just coincidental in their timing – the one led directly to the other. For several decades collectors had the ANA and EAC conventions as potential sources for colonials – as well as whatever could be found at smaller, regional shows near them. *The Colonial Newsletter* certainly existed at the national level, but it was distributed through the mails and many of the people who wrote for it had never actually met each other. What was missing was the personal touch, the ability to forge friendships and camaraderie – and that is why C4 was started. When the annual conventions began, first in New Jersey, then in Boston and now in Baltimore, it gave collectors from across the nation the ability to get together for a long weekend and share their common obsession.

This also changed the nature of how dealers and collectors interacted. One no longer had to go through the process of writing, printing and mailing price lists – these dealers could simply bring their wares to the C4 Convention, put them in a display case and let collectors pick what they need and pay for them right there. If these dealers were doing ANA and EAC, as well as larger regional shows like FUN, Long Beach, Central States and others, they would have the opportunity to meet several times a year in person with many of their customers – making a price list redundant and an expense that could be cut; I recognize that I am something of the exception to this, but that was only because I enjoyed writing – and hated being behind a table at a coin show, so I did not have the same opportunities for selling and stuck to the tried and true approach, well past its expiration date.

[2] Both of these dealers issued a couple of undated price lists; these are likely earlier rather than later, but their issue dates still need to be verified.

The C4 Convention also changed how collectors acquired coins at auction. While serious collectors would make it out to major auctions (usually in New York in the 1980s and 1990s), it was an expensive trip unless you lived nearby – and if you didn't, you wouldn't go out for a minor auction. This meant many collectors bid by mail, phone or (later) internet, usually conservatively since they didn't get a chance to examine the lots in person. Dealers were usually better poised at these kinds of sales, and where an auction with 100 or 200 colonials might not be enough to get a collector to the Big Apple, it would still draw most dealers as a potential source for inventory. But since collectors were already going to the C4 convention they could view the lots in the club auction, attend and bid and win things directly – meaning dealers could seldom win coins that they knew would be easily sold to their customers, since those exact same customers were usually right there in the room bidding. For dealers it became exponentially harder to add inventory at this particular auction venue – though not impossible, as there were always series that weren't as popular or coins that were overlooked because collectors were saving money for things in other series.

So while 1993 marked the end of Mike Ringo's (and others) price lists, it wasn't the end of their actual dealing in colonials. Mike and Don Valenziano set up at many shows, including C4, until they each passed away ("Donny V" died in 2009). Don Mituzas pursued other business ventures, came back briefly as a dealer, and is occasionally seen at shows today. Tom Rinaldo remained a fixture at C4 and other shows, and was active until he retired from coins to pursue his passion for music, a loss to the hobby but a move that greatly increased his own personal happiness. It's hard to believe that eBay only started in 1995, as it has become such an integral part in most collector's daily lives, but that platform may have been the last nail in the coffin of the printed price list – dealers could now list inventory on a weekly or even daily basis, giving collectors a steady supply of material and reaching far more new collectors from across the country (and even across the world) than they could ever do by attending shows or putting a list into the mail.

This new era is still unfolding, and interestingly the colonial fixed price list isn't dead – it's just no longer being printed. PDF's can be e-mailed (and archived on websites) for essentially no cost, and these can include excellent quality images, something that was nearly impossible to do with a printed list. Knowing Mike, if he were still alive today he would be embracing this new format and the Ringo Price List series would likely have continued – after a 20 year lapse!

OH, THOSE DANDY BUTTONS: A FAD OF THE LATTER 18TH CENTURY

(Wayne H. Shelby)

The Button making industry experienced many changes throughout the 18th century including in size, shape, composition and design.

Pewter buttons were the norm for the first half of the century however, from this time forward brass and copper including those of added alloy (lead and/or tin) dominated the market.

With this composition change came innovation and the production of numerous decorative patterns and a seemingly never-ending quest to produce the largest of coat buttons.

It was soon after the ending of the American Revolutionary War when these large design coat buttons became popular in both Britain and the United States by both the middle and upper class. However, those of the middle class partaking this fad became known as "Dandies."

According to Wikipedia (See https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dandy.):

> *"A dandy is a man who dresses elegantly and fashionably. He exaggerates manners, including the way he stands and moves, and the way he speaks. He promotes himself. This is called* ***dandyism****.*
>
> *"The word dandy first came out in the Scottish Verse about 1780:*
>
> > *I've heard my granny crack*
> > *O' sixty twa years back*
> > *When there were sic a stock of Dandies O.*
>
> *"Dandies in the 18th and 19th centuries in the United States and Great Britain were often men from middle-class backgrounds who were trying to become people from high society."*

To this day, I believe the British still identify these large decorated coat buttons as dandy buttons where as here in the states most of us simply say large flat coat buttons or large flat copper buttons including many minor variances.

A sampling of large dandy buttons and smaller fancy buttons recovered by the author at various locations throughout Burlington County, New Jersey.

A C4 LIBRARY CHALLENGE: MATERIALS ON 18th CENTURY MINTING TECHNOLOGY

(David D. Gladfelter)

- Samuel Thompson, *An Essay on Coining.* Illustrated holographic manuscript dated 1783 with eight original drawings and decorative title, in photocopy, original MS in library of the American Numismatic Society.

- Randy Clark, Transcription of Thompson essay with photocopies of drawings and title, prepared for C4 with input from Eric Cheung, Phil Mossman and Leo Shane, 2002.

- J. C. Spilman, "An Overview of Early American Coinage Technology" (Huntsville, AL, *The Colonial Newsletter,* 1982-1983, four installments, sequential pages 765-830.)

* * *

Samuel Thompson, the person, is something of a mystery. He identifies himself as a "die sinker" – literally, "an engraver of dies for stamping or embossing" (*The American College Dictionary,* New York, 1962) – but his expertise can be seen to cover the entire field of mint operations. He possibly had some connection with the Royal Mint of London, but I could find no specific record either of him or of a formal position of die sinker in connection with the Royal Mint. He is not listed in Leonard Forrer's multi-volume *Biographical Dictionary of Medallists.* His manuscript is mentioned briefly by Harrington E. Manville in his *Biographical Dictionary of British and Irish Numismatics,* who says that it "was seemingly written in connection with a proposed mint for Dublin." There is an underlined reference to Dublin on page 10 of the manuscript, an underlined reference to Ireland on page 34, and a reference to County Wicklow south of Dublin on page 51, as well as the name Mathew Bredon and a Dublin address on the fly leaf of the manuscript, which lend some support to this view. Spilman infers that Thompson could have resided in Dublin.

Thompson's essay, particularly the drawings, has attracted the attention of modern writers. That showing workmen operating a screw press is on the cover of the April 1982 issue of CNL in which Spilman begins his four-part series of articles. That drawing appears as a frontispiece to Richard G. Doty's *Money of the World* published in 1978; it and several others by Thompson illustrating refining, rolling and cutting operations as well as coining appear in Don Taxay's *The U. S. Mint and* Coinage published in 1966. The Thompson text is fairly technical; Spilman describes it as "an elementary time-and-motion study detailing the necessary tooling, technology, labor and costs necessary to produce Gold, Silver and Copper coins." For example, Thompson estimates that "Three men in six days can make four Thousand halfpence or Farthings" (p. 53). Spilman's comment: "It appears that one of Thompson's days was a twelve hour workturn."

Spilman had hopes that his Colonial Newsletter Foundation would someday "establish an authentic restoration [or reconstruction] of a complete early American mint," containing facilities not only for striking coins but also for smelting, refining and working the metal from which the coins would be made. Complicating achievement of this goal was a lack of artifacts and documentary evidence of early American mint technology. Thus he turned to documents originating outside America, notably Thompson's essay, for possible applications to minting in America. Spilman's overview focuses on the manufacture of copper coins of the 1780s, beginning with the striking of coins and working backward to planchet manufacture and copper strip production, but omitting the foundry process. He was convinced that the screw press, invented in Italy about 1530, was in use here, probably equipped with automatic planchet feeders. From observing planchet cutter marks and edge patterns found on Connecticut and Fugio coppers, he prepared "an idealized model of what … an early American planchet cutting tool might look like." He believed that a horse-powered rolling mill similar to those illustrated by Thompson and Denis Diderot would have been an essential component of an early American mint, as well as a sand and sawdust filled polishing cylinder for smoothing the blanks prior to striking. In his concluding installment, Spilman developed evidence originally presented by Sylvester Crosby that hubs were used to produce dies for both the Fugio coppers and some Connecticuts.

Colonial and confederation-era coins, counterfeits and currency are historical items and we who collect them do so because we appreciate them as tangible relics of our past. Although an early American mint has not yet been reconstructed, we can visit places like Independence National Park, Mount Vernon, Monticello and Colonial Williamsburg, to experience 18th century American life and times. Through the eyes of Samuel Thompson and Jim Spilman, we can learn about how the coins we collect were made. So read and enjoy.

Both Thompson's and Spilman's works are available on the Newman Numismatic Portal, as well as being in the C4 library. The Clark transcription is only available from the C4 library – it has some errors but is much easier on the eyes. I have made a copy for myself and keyed it to the original pages.

GOSSLINGS ~~GOOSE TOKENS~~ REVISITED

(Will Nipper)

This text was inspired by Marc Mayhugh's article, "A Goose Token," in the Summer 2014 issue of *C4N* and by your author's three-decade long fascination with the tokens that Mayhugh described. Given the recent revelation that those with close ties to St. Eustatius prefer to call the tokens "Gosslings" and the desire to avoid an international incident involving our oldest ally, that revised convention will be here honored.

St. Eustatius, or Statia as it is affectionately known, is a tiny (eight square mile) island to the southeast of the Virgin Islands and just northwest of St. Kitts. Though it changed hands many times throughout its colonial history it was foremost a Dutch possession and is so today. At each of its ends is the rocky carcass of an extinct volcano. Only a 1,200-acre strip of land between the volcanos, about a quarter of the island, is arable – not enough to host many large plantations. Yet, Statia was once among the richest, most strategic properties in the West Indies, earning the nickname "The Golden Rock." How? By providing a free trade alternative to mercantilism's constraints. The British, French and Spanish all took mercantilism very seriously, insisting that colonists trade only with their respective parents. The Dutch and the Danes, on the other hand, were content to deal virtually anything with anyone – including with other nations' West Indian possessions and especially with Britain's mainland colonies.

By the 1770s, about 160 merchants – Dutch, British, French, American, Scottish and others - operated 600 warehouses on St. Eustatius. (Enthoven, 249-250) So long was the list of products available on the tiny island that Edmund Burke called it "…an emporium for all the world." (Enthoven, 245) Since most of these goods were contraband, merchants became adept at creating evasive documents and re-labeling cargo for shipment to forbidden destinations. In many ways Statia was a smuggler's paradise, though not without inherent risk. A letter from a Williamsburg, Virginia merchant to a counterpart in Statia illustrates his level of concern:

> "*Williamsburg [VA,] Dec. 5, 1780…I have made remittances, as you desired, for the half of the Potowmac's* [sic] *cargo, and you will receive the third part of the Tobacco shipped in four different boats, which will be ready to sail in about ten days. I beg of you to send the goods in return by different vessels, as dividing the risque* [risk] *we shall secure a part if not the whole. I mean to pursue this method in* [the] *future, though I should have but one hogshead to export. Insurance is high, and* [the cost of] *freight is the very devil…I have written to Mr. J. W. of London, desiring him to send an assortment of dry goods for me to St. Christopher's [St. Kitts,] addressed to you, and not to take notice that they are for me, and to be from thence forwarded to 'Statia, with positive orders that he insures to both islands by two separate insurances. On their arrival you will divide and ship them in stout armed vessels, that sail with convoy for this state. English goods will command five hundred pounds weight of Tobacco for every twenty shillings, prime cost…Salt and clothing are the most wanted, our trade is most cramped; but after all, this is the colony for an adventurer to turn his penny in…Send no more rum, except it is very low [cheap] indeed…Your faithful and much obliged humble servant, C.N…To Mr. C.S. Merchant, at St. Eustatius*." (Lambert, 15-16)

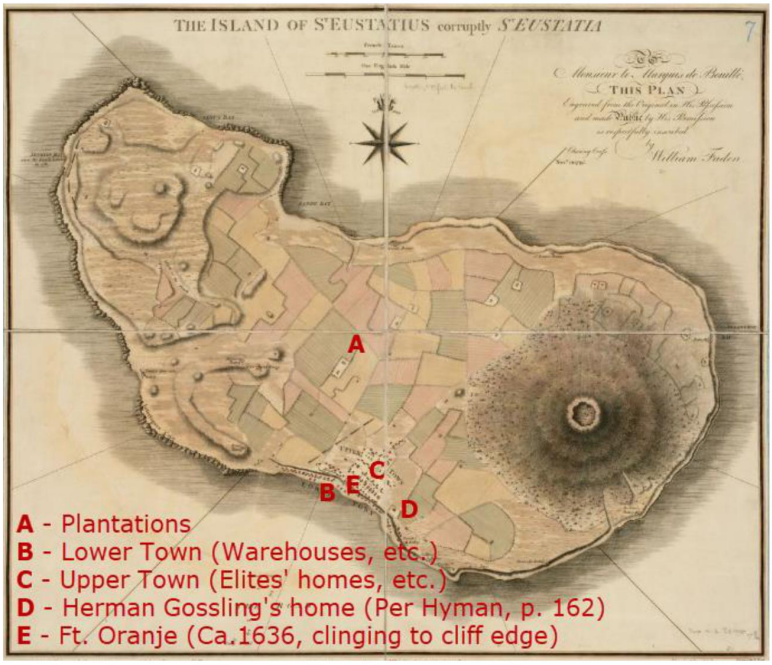


Figure 1: William Faden's map, "The Island of St. Eustatius corruptly St. Eustatia," Engraved by T. Foot and Published in London, 1795. Image courtesy of Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library.[3] Superimposed red labels by author.

Early on trade of African slaves was an emphasis, many of them headed for New England and New York. As official trade policies of Britain, France and Spain became more restrictive, other products became increasingly profitable and replaced the island's slave trade. Indigo came from the Carolinas, tobacco from the Chesapeake, lumber and furniture from New England and rice from various locales. (Enthoven, 253, *et al*) Going in the other direction, by 1770 most of the tea in America came clandestinely through St. Eustatius, later including that which replaced crates of it lost in the Boston Tea Party. Dr. John McCusker estimated that, in 1770 alone, nearly 5 million pounds of sugar, tens of thousands of gallons of molasses and hundreds of thousands of gallons of rum came to America through St. Eustatius.[4] (Enthoven, 291) This illicit trade helped America overcome the inherent one-sidedness of mercantile economics. Much of it relied on and profited the American shipping industry. Statia had few ships of its own. Thus, well before the American Revolution, a tight, symbiotic relationship between the American colonies and St. Eustatius was firmly established.

1776 brought change. On November 16 of that year the brigantine, *Andrew Doria*[5] approached Statia's Ft. Oranje flying the new colors of the United States. Her captain fired a thirteen-cannon salute, one shot for each of the new states. A traditional two-fewer, eleven-gun reply from the fort welcomed her arrival. It was the very first recognition of the fledgling nation by a foreign power. (See postscript.) It came at the order of Governor Johannes de Graaf, who

[3] https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:6t053r50t, Identifier 06_01_006391, Call #: G5167.S4 1795 .F33x, Accessed Sep. 10, 2019.

[4] Overall, in 1779, Statia exported totals of 24 million pounds of sugar, 9 million of coffee and 13 million of tobacco. (Roehrs, 188)

[5] Not to be confused with the Italian ocean liner *Andrea Doria* that sank in 1956. The *Andrew Doria* was originally a merchant ship called the *Defiance*. It was purchased in late 1775 by the Continental Congress and refitted as a 14-gun warship. It was renamed for a 16th century Genoese admiral, Andrea Doria, anglicized to *Andrew Doria*. It's commander was the naval hero Nicholas Biddle, for whom four U.S. Navy ships have been named.

defied his own government to do so. Appropriately, the *Andrew Doria*'s cargo included a copy of our Declaration of Independence for the governor. (Tuchman, 5-7, *et al*)

Figure 2: *St. Eustatius, Leeward Islands*. [177-?] [Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/2012590109/. Accessed Sep. 10, 2019.

As the conflict escalated, technically neutral St. Eustatius became the primary hub for America-bound munitions and other war supplies. France's 1778 entry into the war meant that Martinique was no longer neutral and thus at risk, shifting even more war trade to Statia. A significant portion of the materials was purchased in the Netherlands, under contracts forged by Ben Franklin. When Britain blocked shipments from Amsterdam to the West Indies, the Dutch sent them to West Africa where they were re-papered and forwarded on to St. Eustatius. (Enthoven, 288, 289, *et al*) Adding insult to injury, some of the munitions came from England herself - often recorded as "fruits" and "grains" – cannonballs and gunpowder, respectively - "ripened in the molds of Birmingham" and sold on Statia by English and Bermudan merchants. (Griffis, 584) So much was the role of the island on the minds of British commanders that, at the Battle of Freeman's Farm (a.k.a., Saratoga, after a nearby town,) in September 1777, General Burgoyne's troops were ordered to use the password, "St. Eustatius." In 1780, over 40 percent of the ships that made port in Philadelphia or Baltimore had sailed from St. Eustatius. (O'Shaughnessy, 291) Ultimately, <u>most</u> of the war materials used by American and French forces during the American Revolution came through The Golden Rock.

By early 1781, the British were fed up. On February 3, Admiral Lord George Brydges Rodney crashed the party with a massive fleet of forty war ships. Resistance was pointless and, as a result, no blood was shed in the taking of the island. Rodney's men confiscated the considerable wealth of the island, £3 million in goods and £4 million in bullion – by one estimate, $1 billion today! (Stelten, 141) Treatment of Statia's sizeable Jewish community was particularly harsh. Jewish merchants were stripped of their belongings, separated from their families and exiled. (Enthoven, 241. Paonessa, 127)

In November 1781 the French took Statia in a surprise attack. In 1784, with the war over, it was returned to the Dutch. Though the British occupation was short-lived, Statia never recovered. The treasure was gone and the warehouses ransacked. Rodney summed up justification for his actions saying, "This rock of only six miles in length and three in breadth has done England more harm than all the arms of her most potent enemies and alone supported the infamous American rebellion." (Enthoven, 291) Rodney's obsession with Statia, his dalliance there and his insistence on returning to England to confront critics of his handling of the situation (including the way that he disposed of the seized property) all further aided the rebel cause - They kept him from intercepting the French fleet headed for Yorktown and bringing aid to Lord Cornwallis as he was counted on to do! (O'Shaughnessy, 291-292)

Figure 3: A 35 mm medal depicting G[eorge] B[rydges] Rodney. Its reverse reads, "THE HERO WHO HAVING SPENT HIS YOUTH IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY, IS AMPLY REPAID BY THE CAPTURE OF ST. EUSTATIA FEBY. 3D. 1781." Image courtesy of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London.[6]

Medals commemorate these events and many types of coins, tokens and jetons have been found on Statia, but her own early numismatic legacy is believed limited to some beautiful 17th century blue glass trade beads, "SE" and "P" counterstamps authorized in 1797 and 1809, respectively; rare R. D. Jenkins tokens made sometime after 1742 and now believed associated with Statia; and 1771-dated bit and half-bit brass "Gosslings" – The real subject of this text.

The tokens were ostensibly issued by Herman Gossling, a Statian merchant. But for the denominations, ½ and 1 𝓑[i]ᵗ, both share the same devices and legends. The obverses feature a charming left-facing goose grazing in grass, an obvious play on Gossling's name that means "little goose." The circumscribed legend reads "GOD BLESS Sᵗ EUSTATIUS & GUVᴿ." Presumably, the governor being blessed was Jan de Windt. With the denomination in the center, the reverse legend reads "HERMAN GOSSLING 1771."

Fred Pridmore attributed them to the time of Rodney's 1781 occupation on the basis of their bearing English-language legends. He argued that a Dutchman would have used Dutch legends and denominated the tokens in *reaals* [*sic*.] One oft-quoted implication of English legends is that Gossling may have attempted to gain favor with British occupiers by blessing their governor/commander (Pridmore, 264) who, in 1781, was first James Cockburn and then David Ogilvy. English legends led Stack's to assign Gosslings to the British occupation of 1810-1814 without further explanation. (Stack's, 103, lot # 786) Perhaps they took to heart Ray Byrne's 1972 comment, "Date is *probably* date of founding of firm. Tokens *probably* produced early 1800s." (Byrne, 1054, italics your author's)

[6] https://collections.rmg.co.uk/collections/objects/38885.html, MEC 1445, Accessed Sep. 10, 2019.

Figure 4: Gosslings - Half- and one-bit. Author's collection. On rare occasions when auction catalogs supply metrology, reported diameters seem to hover around 19 mm (half-bit) and 22 mm (bit,) with weights around 18 grains and 30 grains, respectively. This half-bit's diameters are about 19.6 mm. The bit is about 21.6 mm x 22.8 mm (height x width.) Ironically, the half-bit weighs 23.0 grains, while the bit weighs only 21.5 grains! See text below for possible implications.

While these notions have their following, counter arguments exist. First, by the 1770s, English replaced Creole Dutch as the island's dominant language. Though Bill Pittman, Colonial Williamsburg's long-time Archaeological Laboratory Curator, was quoted in 2004 as saying that Gossling came from a family of English merchants (Salmanca-Heymen, 50, 69,) he was actually from an area near Hamburg, Germany. (Hellebrand) While the majority of Statian merchants were Dutch, most of their customers were not. To illustrate, in one particular year, 3,551 ships traded in St. Eustatius. Only 78 of them were Dutch. (Roehrs, 188) Moreover, within two months of his takeover of the island, Rodney there seized more than 50 American ships and over 2,000 Americans. (Enthoven, 241) Even customers who weren't American stood a good chance of being English speakers from British possessions in the area. Clearly, English legends would have surprised no one.

Second, "French bits" or "Caribbean bits" from various sources were ubiquitous in the West Indies. These were nominally valued at nine pence, though the French sometimes altered their valuation. Certainly, Gossling's brass tokens were over-valued for their weight and metal content. (See below.) However, a bit would not have been an unexpected denomination.

Third, it's doubtful that small, overvalued brass tokens would have done much to impress Statia's occupiers or that Gossling would have been favorably disposed to bless the British governor. He was likely among those suing for return of his property. How would he have gotten the coins minted during the not-quite-ten-month occupation, his resources having been confiscated and he effectively being under something resembling house arrest?

According to John Hyman's book, *The Golden Rock*, Gossling was about forty years old in 1771, was born on Statia and had long been a resident. (Hyman, 163) However, Hyman labeled his own work a "historical fiction drama." He clearly did a significant amount of research for it but is not clear how much license was taken in presenting facts. What is clear is that Gossling does not appear in Statia's 1771 census, though he does in the 1778 census. One possible explanation then is that he arrived on the island in late 1771, after the census was completed. (Hellebrand) However, a May 12, 1772 document from Amsterdam's city archives

directs Roelof Roelofs, of St. Eustatius, to act on Amsterdam merchant Karel D'Amour's[7] behalf in dissolving his soured business relationship with Gossling – including settling unpaid accounts, returning unsold merchandise and being prepared to take legal action should evidence of improper accounting be found. (Amsterdam archives, Hellebrand translation) Evidently the relationship began well before 1771 for it to have reached such a state of animus by May, 1772. And, if Hyman is correct about Gossling's age and tenure on Statia, what had the merchant done before he supposedly started his business in 1771? Perhaps 1771 was just another year and not the one in which the business was founded – and just happened to be the year in which Herman Gossling ordered tokens.

Historians disagree on how Gossling made his fortune. Dr. Han Jordaan stated that he exported only rice and that he accounted for 15 percent of Statia's total exports of that commodity. (Jordaan, 20) Dr. Johannes Hartog, on the other hand, asserted that Gossling's fortune came from trade in sugar and indigo. A Dutch notary archives document describes Gossling having purchased a shipment of arak (or araq, a very strong anise-flavored distilled spirit that originated in the Middle East) and never paying for it. (Hellebrand, online dialog)

Other recent research finds include a December 27, 1785 document in the Amsterdam city archives that helps to approximate the date of Gossling's death, which must have occurred in 1784. The document describes a claim against heirs to the estate of Herman Gossling by Messrs. Akker and Heineken, to be paid by the estate's executor, I. H. Schmalz. It seems that an earlier a bill of exchange had "bounced" as a result of Rodney's raid. Items were sold off in 1784 to raise money. (Hellebrand)

Summarizing to this point, if Herman Gossling originated the tokens as believed, then it appears that they were made sometime between 1771 and 1784 and, with all respect due Mr. Pridmore, <u>not</u> during the 1781 British occupation.

An important question, the answer to which might shed some light on the Gossling's time of issue is: Just how were they used? At around 30 grains, Gossling bits weigh only about 1/5 as much as a regal British halfpenny. Equating them with bits valued by the French at nine pence is a significant stretch. This strongly suggests that they circulated only within a "closed" system (Hellebrand's term) in which their worth was controlled (i.e., nominally set) and independent of intrinsic value. The inverted weight relationship between the half-bit and bit depicted in figure 4 may be no more than anecdotal but it suggests that rigorous enforcement of weight standards was not a priority. The obvious analog is a merchant token intended to be redeemed only by its issuer.

Speculating, such might be also be the case if they were used to pay workers for making purchases in a "company store" – Compare to "coal scrip" or "plantation tokens" for example. It might also be the case if the tokens were intended as "store cards" or advertising pieces and not as money. With so much hard money on the island in the 1770s, it seems unlikely that small tokens would have been needed for commerce. In the aftermath of Rodney's raid, commerce was severely limited. Accordingly demand for small change was surely limited as well. In good times this demand could have been met by other minor coinage circulating in the region. Many

[7] Walter Hellebrand determined from a recent listing of the five hundred richest people during the Republic of the Netherlands' Golden Age, that D'Amour was ranked 119th and Joan Hodshon, who is also mentioned in the 1785 the document, was ranked 100th. Gossling clearly associated with some powerful individuals.

and varied examples of contemporaneously imported small change have been found at archeological sites on the island. (See Salamanca-Heyman) And no obvious accounts of small change shortages leap from the pages of contemporary accounts of the immediate post-Rodney era. Still, an emergency coinage might have been called for after 1781. But why date them "1771"?

Ruud Stelten described an 1827 probate document for Herman Gossling in the Netherlands' national archives. Enumerated property included beautifully furnished buildings in both Lower Town and Upper Town, the latter being where Statian elites lived, as well as thirteen enslaved individuals, livestock and fifteen paintings. (Stelten, 45-46, 141) This document evidently refers to Herman Gossling's son, Herman David Gossling. The younger Gossling, as well as his sister and her husband, became plantation owners after the collapse of the island's trading economy.[8]

It is possible that Herman David Gossling produced the tokens after his father's death. However, it seems unlikely that he would have omitted his middle name or initial that would distinguish him from his father. He signed his full name on 1802 documents from Breda. These documents indicate that Herman David was an Amsterdam resident at the time. (Breda archives) It is not yet clear to your author whether 1771 might commemorate his birth year or whether he physically returned to St. Eustatius after 1802. In any case, it is unlikely that the younger Gossling needed small change to pay enslaved plantation workers – unless he used them the way "prison tokens" were later used to discourage escapes, *i.e.*, the tokens would have been worthless elsewhere – as if the threat of horrible physical punishment would not be enough! Sadly, slavery in the Antilles lasted until 1863.

On the other hand, the elder Gossling might have paid employees with tokens. In his external business affairs, instruments of commerce were typically bills of exchange or specie. However, those who labored for him, that is, those who were not enslaved or indentured, might have benefited from small change tokens, particularly if other retail merchants could be convinced to honor them. Of course, this is all just speculation.

Additional biographical and business information on Herman Gossling that could resolve the uncertainties is conspicuously absent from usual sources in part because a 1772 hurricane and Rodney's raid all but destroyed the island's early archives. The U.K.'s national archives are replete with contemporary intelligence reports, letters, etc., dealing with St. Eustatius and with the Gossling/Gosling surname (at least the ones in England.) However, advanced online searches of indexes returned little containing variations of "Herman Gossling." Nor did these searches return items that link the terms "Gossling" and "Eustatius" or "Gossling" and "Statia." Even so, one would think that references must be buried somewhere in the records of the Admiralty Court, in Hamburg or in personal correspondences.

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[8] Ironies attend Herman David Gossling's story. Presumably stemming from the father's Hamburg origins, he was a Lutheran, not a member of the Dutch Reformed Church, at the time of his wedding in St. Eustatius. If the elder Gossling were also a Lutheran as is fairly certain, his tomb would likely be in the "Old Cemetery" and unmarked because of decades of neglect. That would explain the fact that his burial site is presently unknown. It is also interesting that Herman David Gossling named his own son after I. H. Schmalz, the man who was executor of Herman Gossling's estate. (Hellebrand, online dialog)

The question of mint location is also a mystery. Were Gosslings made in the Netherlands? England? Germany? America? On the island itself? They are vaguely reminiscent of jetons or of 17th century merchant tokens struck in England and Ireland. Rather than being produced on large presses, the latter are believed to have been minted by itinerate die makers who travelled from city to city with small, portable presses. The Gossling family certainly had the wherewithal to purchase and have shipped such a press. Might one be present in the estate inventories? Or might order documentation exist in the records of a larger government or private mint? If Herman Gossling had a press, why was it only used to mint 1771-dated tokens?

Relative weights of the Gosslings in figure 4 may indicate that more than one planchet stock was used or that multiple batches were made. That is, for a smaller diameter coin to weigh more than a larger diameter coin of the same alloy, it clearly must be made from thicker stock.

When your author first saw a Gossling in a 1990 Bank Leu auction, the first impression was their stylistic similarity to John Chalmers' Annapolis shillings – The birds, the lettering, the dentils, the physical size, the use of script lettering in the denomination (re: "rings" shillings,) etc. Though any circumstances by which collaboration might have happened are unknown, it is impossible to stop wondering if one might somehow have influenced the other. Are Herman Gossling's geese and Thomas Sparrow's birds cousins? Perhaps that too is a topic deserving of study.

Figure 5: Obverse of 1783 John Chalmers' silver "long worm" shilling, possibly designed by Thomas Sparrow. Diameter 21 mm, weight 46.5 grains. Author's collection.

In conclusion, it may yet be found when, where, why and by whom Gosslings were struck. Until then an open mind is the only prudent substitute for a smoking gun. It is almost inconceivable that these fascinating little tokens circulated on any more than an incidental basis in what is now the United States. They certainly had no material impact on international trade. Yet something about them connects to the spirit, the era and even actual events surrounding the American Revolution in ways that no other issue seems to. They are among your author's favorite pieces from the period – American in spirit and in shared history, if not literally so.

Statians celebrate the anniversary of the *Andrew Doria*'s arrival on November 16, as Statia-America Day. In 2019, Statia-America Day falls on Saturday of the C4 Convention in Baltimore. Perhaps those who gather there to revel in the early history of the United States would do well to raise a glass to our first and enduring friends.

Postscript

It was brought to your author's attention that a prior claim to the "first salute" exists. Having been chartered by Robert Morris, the Wilmington, Delaware brig, *Nancy*, set sail for Puerto Rico on March 1, 1776. Its captain, Hugh Montgomery, was to purchase munitions sent by Spain and then pick up additional war supplies from the Danish West Indies (D.W.I.) islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix. After arriving in the D.W.I., produce was loaded by day, munitions by night. Even then, the munitions were brought in small boats from St. Eustatius,

of all places! Allegedly, while at St. Croix, Captain Montgomery received word that American independence had been declared. Materials were quickly acquired and a young officer, Thomas Mendenhall, fashioned an American flag. While the salute was underway, the *Nancy*'s British flag was lowered and the new American version raised, amid shouts of "Down with the [British] lion; up with the stars and stripes." (Montgomery, 175-177) These events all supposedly took place in June 1776, months before the St. Eustatius salute.

Reading about this prompted a "Wait! What?" moment. On June 7, Virginia's Richard Henry Lee proposed to Congress a three part resolution, the first tenet of which asserted that, "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown…" However, the delegates weren't yet prepared to vote on independence. Some had to first secure authority from their respective governments to vote. Moreover, the world awaited formal justification for such a monumental change – a declaration of independence enumerating causes for the break. Of course the measure passed on July 2, 1776 and was signed by John Hancock two days later.[9]

For the chronology to work, Montgomery must have returned to Philadelphia soon after the supposed salute. He was captured by the British at the Battle of Turtle Gut Inlet, but not before saving most of the gunpowder and purposely blowing up the *Nancy* on June 29, 1776, three days before independence was approved by Congress. Even if Montgomery took the June 7 resolution as the date of independence, word had to reach the West Indies and Montgomery had to sail back to Philadelphia, (i.e., a round trip) in about three weeks – theoretically possible, but certainly "pushing it."[10] If the salute truly came in June, is it meaningful to recognize the sovereignty of a nation that has not yet formally asserted, let alone, won, its sovereignty?

A more challenging hurdle for the *Nancy* story may be the flag itself. Since early December 1775, the *de facto* naval (and garrison) ensign was the one later known as the "Grand Union" – with a British "Union Jack" in the field and thirteen alternating red and white stripes.[11] At a distance, it is essentially indistinguishable from a contemporary British East India company flag and could be easily made by adding white stripes to a British red ensign. It is the Grand Union that was saluted at St. Eustatius on November 16, 1776. British captains John Dean and John Spicer were just yards away to witness it and testified as such. (Griffis, 579-580) Stars and stripes weren't *officially* used together until after an act passed on June 14, 1777. Ironically, that happens to be the exact day that John Paul Jones was appointed commander of the *Ranger.* On February 14, 1778, at Quiberon Bay, in France, a French fleet saluted Jones and his flag. Tradition has this as the first foreign salute to the "Stars and Stripes." (Anonymous, S.A.) But could a stars-and-stripes flag have existed before July 1776?

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[9] Approval was indicated by Hancock's signature, in his role as President of the Continental Congress, and by Charles Thomson's signature as Secretary. Despite John Trumbull's epic 19th century painting of the signing ceremony, the familiar delegate signatures on an "engrossed" (fancy, caligraphied) copy, were not obtained until August 2, a full month after approval, and even then they came in dribs and drabs.

[10] The distance from Philadelphia to San Juan, PR is about 1,323 miles. (Distances Between U.S. Ports, Washington, DC, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 2019) By most estimates, sailing speeds averaged four to five knots in the 1770s, with brigs at the faster end of the scale – faster if not heavily laden with munitions.

[11] In a letter from the Naval Committee to the Virginia Convention, direction is given to use "…a Jack with the Union flag, and striped red and white in the field." (*Letters of Delegates to Congress, 1774-1789*, Volume 2, September 1775 - December 1775, Electronic Text Center, University of Virginia Library, https://web.archive.org/web/20110112113342/http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/etcbin/toccer-new2?id=DelVol02.xml&images=images%2Fmodeng&data=%2Ftexts%2Fenglish%2Fmodeng%2Fparsed&tag=public&part=537&division=div1#n537.1, Accessed Sep. 23, 2019.

In 1851, Elizabeth, daughter of Captain Hugh Montgomery, published a book honoring her father's achievements. Much of the support for the alternate "first salute" claim seems to tie back to her. Thomas C. Mendenhall, a descendant of the young man who made the flag in question, referred to her version in 1893, but acknowledged inconsistencies. In addition to the ones above, he noted that Elizabeth was an infant when her father died in in 1780. Thus, she could not have remembered the story from him telling her directly. Moreover, she was in her seventies when she wrote the book in 1851 and had been engaged in a years-long lobbying effort to obtain a pension for herself, based on her father's heroics. Even testimony from the original, flag-maker Mendenhall wasn't enough to persuade Congress. (Mendenhall, 425-428)

Without question Captain Montgomery was a hero. But is it possible that Elizabeth conflated the several stories to produce one that fit her cherished narrative? An illustration that appears in her book is by mezzotint artist, John Sartain, who was born in 1808 and thus could not have been an eyewitness. As with an extant painting of Statia's Governor de Graf, it ironically depicts a flag with stars and stripes. Is the *Nancy* depiction accurate, an inadvertent error or simply an example of wishful thinking?

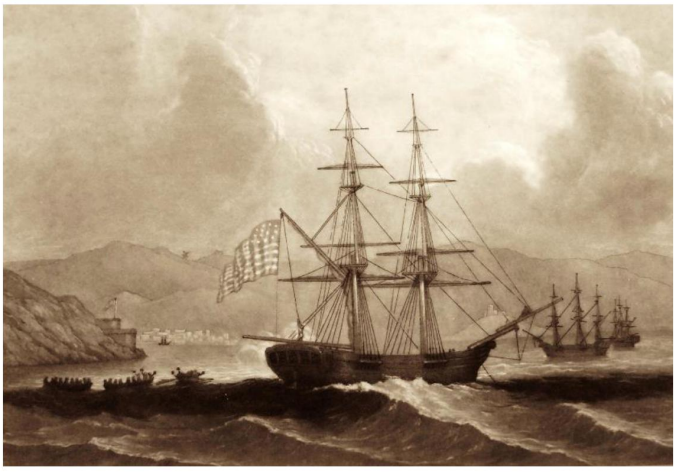

Figure 6: "The Flag of the United States, First hoisted at the Island of St. Thomas by Capt. Hugh Montgomery, on the news of the Declaration of Independence, 1776." Drawn and Engraved by John Sartain. Illustrates the Brigantine *Nancy*, flying an American flag at St. Thomas. Note that the flag has three stars within a circle of nine. That it has stars and stripes at all is likely an anachronism. (Montgomery, between pages 176 and 177. Public record.)

The St. Eustatius version of the story lacks these inconsistencies and is backed by robust documentation, often in the form of legal documents and sworn affadavits. In your author's humble opinion, it remains for now the champion in the race to the first salute.

Acknowledgements

Your author owes a sincere debt of gratitude to Mr. Walter Hellebrand of the St. Eustatius Historical Foundation. Walter is a St. Eustatius native, its Monuments Director, a historian, an educator and the designer of its official coat of arms. His knowledge of the island's history and his ability to decipher 250-year old handwritten Dutch documents are unequalled and very much appreciated. This article could not have been written (at least not by this author) without his help and support.

Further thanks are due Marc Mayhugh for his advice and advocacy for West Indian colonial numismatics – and, of course, for writing that 2014 article.

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C4 LIBRARY NEWS

(Leo Shane)

Let's all help our fellow C4 Members as well as future C4 Members. *TAKE THE C4 LIBRARY CHALLENGE.* Borrow and read a book. Then write a book summary for publication in the C4 Newsletter.

Below are new items acquired by the club or donated since the last C4 Library Update. They are now available for loan by all C4 and EAC members in good standing. A complete list of library holdings and instructions on how to borrow them is available at the C4 website, www.colonialcoins.org. Thank You to all who have donated items.

Thank You to those who have checked their old copies of auction catalogs and donated them to the library. There's still room for more. The Library is interested in getting copies of past auction catalogs that we currently do not have. Take a look at the list shown on the club website. Any that are not already in the library are greatly appreciated. Remember, all catalogs that have at least one Colonial will have the colonial section separated and added to the library archive. Catalogs with major colonial content will be retained in their entirety. Thanks

Books, Manuscripts & Auction Catalogs:

- The Numismatist, Publication of the American Numismatic Association, Partial set of newsletters starting in 1894 to the present - Donated by Roger Siboni (Separate Notice of this major donation is included elsewhere in this issue of the C4 Newsletter)

- Frossard, Ed, *Franco American Jetons Fully Described and Illustrated,* Privately Published New York NY 1899, Reprint by Frank & Laurese Katen Publishers, Silver Springs MD, 1977 - Donated by David Menchell.

- The Numismatist, Publication of the American Numismatic Association, Complete set of 1945, 1946 and 1948 newsletters and a partial set of 1944 newsletters -Donated by Rich Ippolito.

- Stacks, *John J. Ford Collection – Coins Medals and Currency Part XIII*, 16 January 2006, New York NY – Donated by Rich Ippolito.

- Moore, Roger, Eugene Andrews, Robert Bowser, John Howes, John Louis, David Palmer, Jeff Rock, Rick Rose, Clem Schettino and Byron Weston, *Contempory Counterfeit Halfpenny & Farthing Families,* First Proof Copy of the book, Published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), 2018 - Donated by Ray Williams.

- Daniel Frank Sedwick, *Treasure and World & US Coin and Paper Money Auction 25,* 2-3 May 2019, Winter Park FL - Donated by Daniel Sedwick.

- The Numismatist, Publication of the American Numismatic Association, February 1976 Vol 89 No. 2 newsletter. – Donated by Todd Gredesky.

- Witham, Stewart, *Johann Matthaus Reich also known as John Reich,* Self Published Report, November 1993 – Donated by Tim Janecke.

- Geoffrey Bell Auctions, *The Arcadia Collection (French American Coinage),* 2-3 May 2019, Toronto ON – Donated by Geoffrey Bell Auctions.

- Bowers, Q. David, *The Copper Coins of Vermont and Interrelated Issues 1783-1788,* Number 500 of 500 printed, Published by Stacks Bowers Galleries, New York NY 2018 – Donated by Stacks Bowers.

- Martin, Sydney F., *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America – Gloriam Regal Issue of 1670, 1717 Perpignan Coppers, 1721-22 Nine Denier Coppers,* Published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), 2015 – Acquired by C4.

- Stack's Bowers, *The Twin Leaf Collection of State Coinage – Connecticut & Massachusetts Coppers,* 1 March 2019, Baltimore MD – Donated by Stack's Bowers.

- Stack's Bowers, *The Spring 2019 Baltimore Auction,* 28 February & 1 and 6 March 2019, Baltimore MD – Donated by Stack's Bowers.

Suggestions for additions to the library are always appreciated. Please consider donating books, auction catalogs, etc. to the library. Remember, those who are learning about colonials now are those who will be buying <u>your</u> coins later. Thank you. My E-mail is Leo_J_Shane@hotmail.com.

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Checks should be made payable to C4 and mailed to Charlie Rohrer, C4 treasurer, P.O. Box 25, Mountville, PA, 17554.

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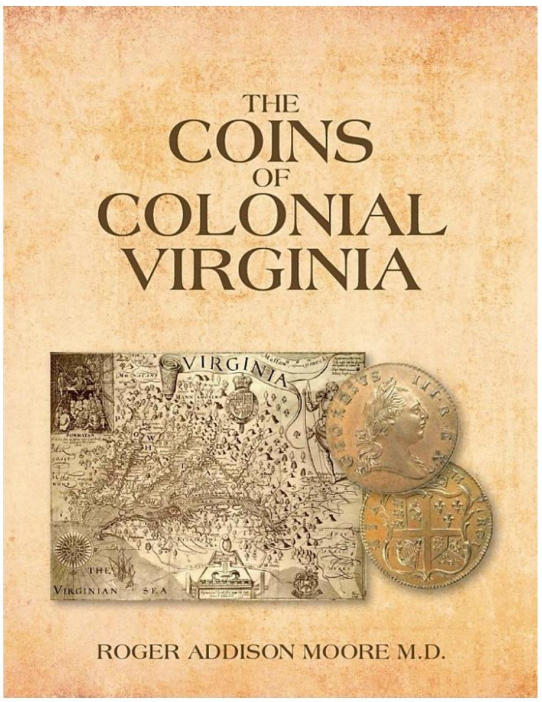
Notice of a Major C4 Library Donation:

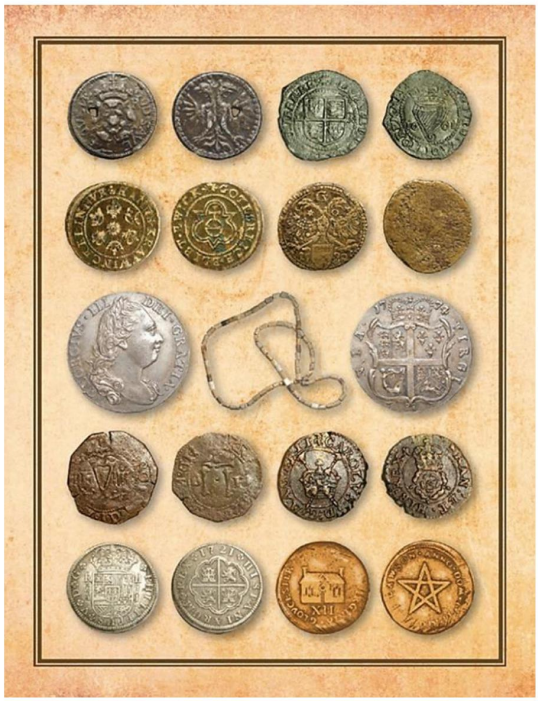
I would like to announce a major donation to the C4 Library. C4 Member Roger Siboni has donated a partial set of *The Numismatist* newsletter of the American Numismatic Association dating from 1894 to the present. Many of these issues are rare, very valuable and hard to come by.

This set has many fine articles and announcements and offers first hand insight into the hobby as it existed during the late 19th century to the present. Many of the of the great names in numismatics are included in these pages. I will make an exact listing of the issues we have in the next month or so but what we have now is available for loan.

Thank You, Roger, for this fantastic donation.
Leo Shane, C4 Librarian

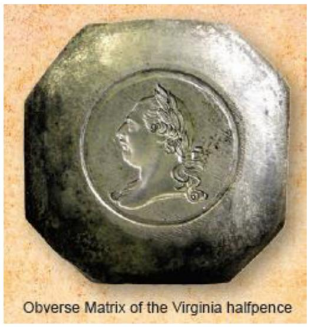
C4 Proudly Announces a New Book By Roger A. Moore!





The growth and development of Virginia into one of the most important North American colonies can be traced by the economic evolution of the Dominion State as it attempted to gain the necessary hard currency needed for commerce. The history surrounding the introduction of various coinages and the use of tobacco as a commodity currency over the 150 years leading up to the final authorization of the production of Virginia halfpence in 1773 is fascinating. Equally as absorbing are the twists, turns and dead ends encountered by the Virginia colonists as they sought authorization from the English Crown for their own coinage. It is ironic that the long desired copper Virginia halfpence finally provided to Virginia under Warrant from King George III became available to the colonists only fifty days before the beginning of the American Revolution.

In addition to exploring the historic context in which colonial Virginia struggled to obtain hard currency, methods are provided for attributing and collecting the 30 known die varieties of the 1773 copper Virginia halfpence. The book also enumerates the specifics of the Virginia halfpence metrology, rarity, and grading, as well as their numerous forgeries, facsimiles, fantasies and oddities. Virginia halfpence can be appreciated and collected in nearly uncirculated condition and are important additions to any collection of American colonial coins.


Obverse Matrix of the Virginia halfpence

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Price: $95. Available beginning at the C4 Convention, November 14-17, 2019, from Charles Davis. Orders may be placed at Post Office Box 1; Wenham, MA 01984. Telephone: (978) 468 - 2933; Fax (978) 468 - 7893; E-mail: numislit@aol.com; Business Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 – -5:00 EST.
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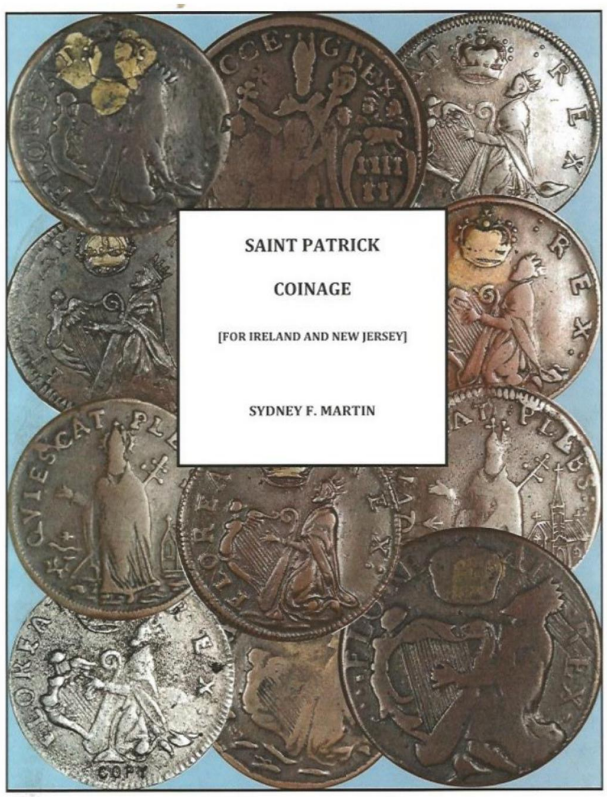
Last Year the Colonial Coin Collectors Club Released The Definitive Book on the St. Patrick Coinage by Sydney F. Martin

Boston – May 27, 2018, The Colonial Coin Collectors Club, (C4), released Sydney F. Martin's latest book, *Saint Patrick Coinage For Ireland and New Jersey*. This is the fourth book published by C4 that has been written by Syd Martin, the former editor of the *C4 Newsletter* and current President of The American Numismatic Society. His other works are *The Rosa Americana Coinage* of *William Wood*, *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood*, and *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*. These books are all considered the standard references for these series today. Syd's latest work covers a series that has long vexed researchers on both sides of the Atlantic – the St. Patrick coinage. In researching this book Syd traveled to Ireland and spent many hours in the archives in New Jersey in search of clues, discovering some fascinating answers and developing several new theories regarding the coinage. This coinage has long been shrouded in mystery as to when and where it was made, and for what purpose. Syd discusses the theories that have been proposed so far, and the pros and cons of each plus some exciting new theories of his own.



According to Lou Jordan, the Curator of Numismatic Collections for the University of Notre Dame, this book is "groundbreaking!" Phil Mossman, former editor of *The Colonial Newsletter* (*CNL*), writes that "Syd has described in detail the visual imagery and icons symbolized on these coins by hand-engraved dies. A total of 197 varieties of small St. Patrick coins have been meticulously cataloged by him and presented in an easy to follow format." Mossman went on to state that "the nine varieties of large St. Patrick coppers, identified as a separate entity, are equally well presented." Christopher McDowell, editor of *CNL*, states that "this is the most important book on colonial numismatics to be published in many years. It is doubtful that this book will ever be surpassed in its coverage of the series. If you collect St. Patrick coinage or are interested in colonial numismatics, this book is a must-have."

In many ways this work is a collaborative effort, helped by many collectors who shared access to their St. Patrick collections for Syd to examine and photograph. The result is the first complete and illustrated catalogue of all known varieties in the series; unlike Syd's earlier three books, this one features color photographs. Other topics covered include the manufacturing history of the coins, literary discussion of the series, a history of their circulation in America, and a fascinating Appendix that includes what Syd calls "Miscellany." According to Phil Mossman, what

Syd calls "Miscellany" is actually "well-researched inquiries into the lineage of an elusive series." C4 is very proud to publish this book and its long association with Syd Martin.

The 528-page book is hardbound, with color illustrations throughout of the different coin varieties examined, with dust jacket. *Saint Patrick Coinage: For Ireland and New Jersey*, by Sydney F. Martin, is available for $95 for C4 members or $125 for nonmembers of C4, plus $7.25 shipping from bookseller Charles Davis, (numisbook.com,) Box 1, Wenham, MA 01984, or telephone 978.468-2933.

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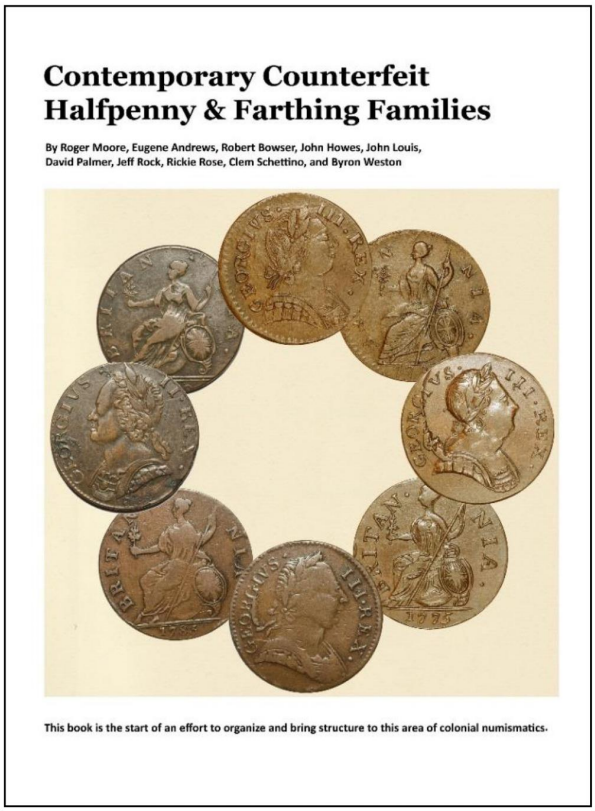
The Colonial Coin Collectors Club announces a 2nd printing:

CONTEMPORARY COUNTERFEIT HALFPENNY AND FARTHING FAMILIES, 2nd PRINTING

By Roger Moore, Eugene Andrews, Robert Bowser, John Howes, John Louis, David Palmer, Jeff Rock, Rickie Rose, Clem Schettino, and Byron Weston

This monograph is the start of an effort to organize and bring structure to this area of colonial numismatics: it breaks down the vast number of different varieties into related groups called Families. A Family of contemporary counterfeits is a group of coins that likely came from the same minting operation at about the same time. Families are logical groups that share one or more of the following attributes: dies, die making punches, or similarities in the design style. This updated large format, glossy hardcover, 294 pages and profusely illustrated in color will be available in July for $54.95 from Barnes & Noble, Amazon books, and other mass market retailers. Check specifically for ISBN 978-1-64255-857-9.


Contemporary Counterfeit
Halfpenny & Farthing Families
By Roger Moore, Eugene Andrews, Robert Bowser, John Howes, John Louis,
David Palmer, Jeff Rock, Rickie Rose, Clem Schettino, and Byron Weston
This book is the start of an effort to organize and bring structure to this area of colonial numismatics.

Comments on ***Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpenny and Farthing Families***:

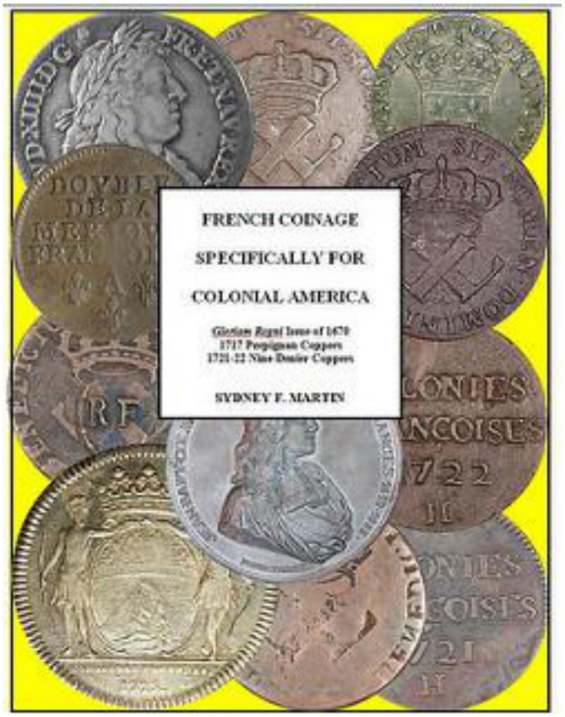
Jim Rosen, Past President, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, Inc.:

"Finally, a wonderful and badly needed reference book of extraordinary importance that for the first time begins the monumental task of putting order to the unorganized field of counterfeit halfpence and farthings."

*****

FRENCH COINAGE
SPECIFICALLY FOR COLONIAL AMERICA

The Colonial Coin Collectors Club, C4, released Sydney F. Martin's latest book, *French Coinage Specifically For Colonial America*. This is the third colonial coin book published by C4 written by Syd Martin. Other works include *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood* and *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood*. The Rosa and Hibernia books are now considered standard references for those coinages and Syd's long awaited new book is expected to become the leading reference works on French Coinage minted for circulation in North America.According to Lou Jordan, the curator of numismatic col-lections for the University of Notre Dame, "Sid Martin has written the definitive catalog of French coinage authorized specifically for use in North America." Jordan went on to state that "this is an essential book for anyone interested in the French coinage of colonial North America."



"What many early American coin collectors fail to recognize," Martin said upon the book's release, "is that from the 16th century until 1763, New France included much of what is now the United States, as well as most of Canada. As such, coins minted by France for circulation in its North American colonies should be considered 'coins of the realm' in these areas." Colonial numismatic expert, John Kraljevich, went on to explain that "the history of the French in what is today the United States is largely forgotten. However, the memory of these people and their coinage has been long cherished in Canada."

Jim Rosen, president of C4, predicts that "Martin's new book will awaken an interest in both the history of the French speaking people in North American and the coins they used such as the Gloriam Regni coins of 1670, the 6 and 12-denier copper coins minted in 1717, and the copper 9-denier coins from 1721 and 22, all of which were struck in France specifically for circulation in the Americas."

In the book's introduction, John Kraljevich writes that, "With Crosby-like flair, Syd has marshaled together the original documents that tell the stories of these coinages. Most have never been published at all, let alone in English or all in one place. This original research guarantees this work's importance to researchers in every forthcoming generation. The heart of this book, the die studies, offers several pathways for collectors to navigate these series, by basic type, by major variety, by die combination, or even by die state. It's a project that no one has ever even attempted before, an outlier in the world of colonial numismatics, a field that has seen multiple die studies of most of the popular series. Given Syd's well-organized approach

and the thousands of coins he's studied, it may be generations before this work is supplanted. It's doubtful anyone will ever do it any better."

The 480-page book is hardbound, well-illustrated throughout with photographs of the different coin varieties examined, with dust jacket depicting French Coinage. The book is available for $85.00 plus $7.00 shipping from bookseller Charles Davis, (http://www.numisbook.com/), Box 1, Wenham, MA 01984, or telephone 978.468-2933.

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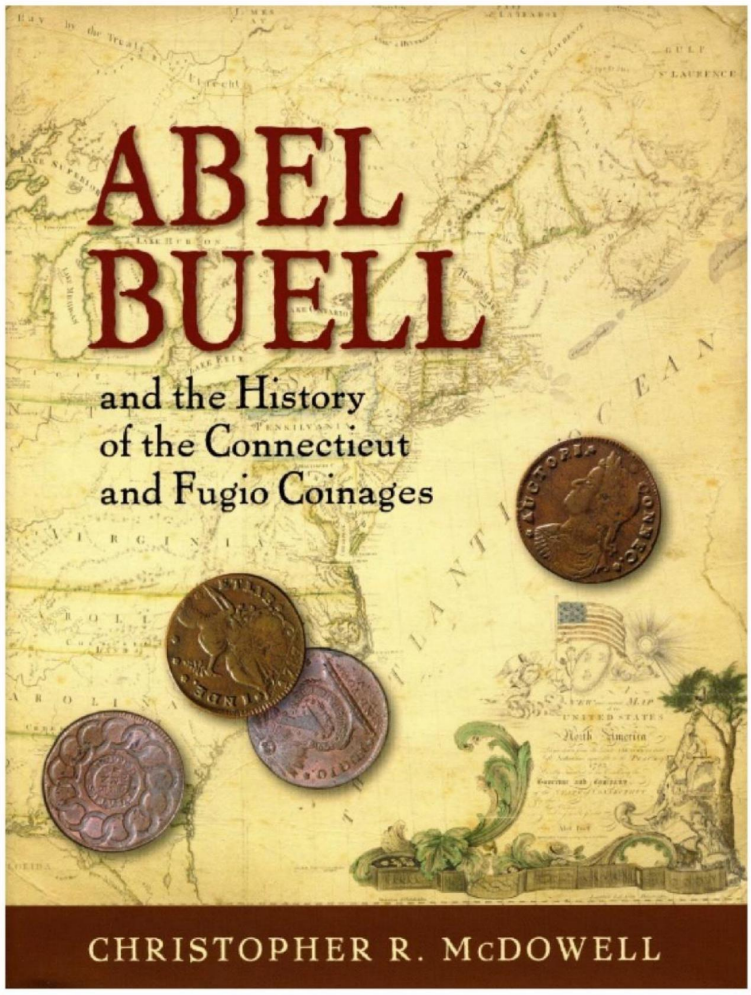
Support the C4 Club education initiatives buy this book:



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C4 Offers Important Colonial Books

For more information on the following books, published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), visit the C4 website at www.colonialcoins.org. These books may be ordered directly from: Charles Davis' website: www.numisbook.com.

(1) Jordan, Lou. *John Hull, The Mint, and The Economics of Massachusetts Coinage,* Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2002. Price: $10.

(2) McDowell, Christopher R., *Abel Buell and the History of the Connecticut and Fugio Coinages*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2015. Price $85.

(3) Martin, Sydney. *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2016. Price $85.

(4) Martin, Sydney. *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724),* Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2007. Price: $50.

(5) Martin, Sydney. *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2012. Price $50.

(6) Martin, Sydney. *St. Patrick Coinage for Ireland and New Jersey*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2018. Price $95.

(7) Moore, Roger, *The Coins of Colonial Virginia*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2019, Price $95.

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PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

In accordance with our by-laws, those who have recently joined C4 as provisional members are listed below. If any current C4 member in good standing has a reason any of the following should be denied membership in C4, please contact either your Regional VP or the President of the Club, Jack Howes. The new provisional members, with their home states, are:

Patrick Bain - SD
Laurence Edwards - IL
Christopher Hickey - CT
Philip Smith - GA

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THE C4 NEWSLETTER IS ON THE NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL!

Past issues of The C4 Newsletter, and a plethora of other important numismatic resources are now available online, through The Newman Numismatic Portal, at:

www.archive.org/details/newmannumismatic

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RESOURCE FOR THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Our C4 Newsletter now has an index available on our website at www.colonialcoins.org. There are actually two indexes: one by author and a second by topic/title. This is a beginning and the index will improve over time. We have intentions of updating the index within a week or two of every issue being shipped. We ask past authors and contributors to the C4N to please review their work in the index and forward any corrections/additions/suggestions to Ray Williams at njraywms@optonline.net or call.

*****

COMPLETE C4 NEWSLETTER CDs FOR SALE

C4 is making available on CD of a complete set of *C4 Newsletters* from 1993 (vol.1, no.1) through 2011 (vol.19, no. 4.) The format is a fully searchable PDF files, which makes life and research much easier. Thanks to Randy Clark, Ray Williams and Gary Trudgen for their vision and extremely hard work, which now lets us offer these wonderful research tools to you for $50 plus $4.00 p&h for members or $75 plus $4.00 p&h for non-members. To order, please contact either (a) Wayne Shelby at dughistory@juno.com or at P.O. Box 568 Rancocas, NJ 08073 or (b) Charlie Rohrer at RohrerC@cadmus.com or at P.O. Box 25 Mountville, PA 17554. Please send your check made out to C4 to Charlie Rohrer at the above address.

I need help in a project that will turn into a *C4 Newsletter* article on estimating the surviving population of State Coinages. I am developing a model but need to better understand how many NJ coppers collectors hold. Only aggregated data will be used. I am looking for information on total number of NJ coppers, number recovered (dug), number purchased, and number sold in last 12 months or longer periods if available. I am looking for data from any size collections or accumulations.

J. Howes; 19967 East Doyle; Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236; 313 319-1743

Obtaining Back Copies of C4 Newsletter and C4 Auction Catalogues

Wayne Shelby has agreed to store the back copies of the *C4 Newsletter*. People wishing to purchase back issues that are still available should send their money to our treasurer, Charlie Rohrer, whose contact data are at page 2. Upon receipt of the money, he will contact Wayne, who will mail out the material. Back copies of the *Newsletter* are $10 for the first and $8 for all after that placed at the same time. If you have questions of what material is available, you can contact Wayne at:

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609-261-6662 (Home)

The Daniel Frank Sedwick database of fake cobs is now on ForgeryNetwork :
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http://www.forgerynetwork.com/asset.aspx?id=QEjfzd5ZR~x~8=

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I am in the process of researching information pertaining to the Talbot, Allum & Lee series. I am seeking assistance from C-4 members who may have knowledge regarding the evolution of the series and the coins that were issued. I possess the basic series including all mules. If you have any unique or off metal pieces, or a half cent struck over a Talbot piece I would love to have access to them if possible.

Please contact Arnold Miniman at ahminiman@gmail.com, or (201) 317-4199.

I'm currently undertaking a comprehensive study of the Castorland jeton. I'm approaching the study from both sides of the Atlantic, relying heavily on French sources, and my study entails operational details from the manufacture of flans to the mechanical workings of the screw press; the history of jetons as they evolved from arithmetical counters to monarchial presentation pieces; events leading up to the establishment of the New York Company; the biography of Benjamin Duvivier; etc. culminating in detailed descriptions of variants struck from at least one original die. As you can see it's a big work, but I've been at it quite a few years and am wonderfully engaged in the project. Here is a "finding list" of details I'm looking for, as well as photos if possible:

1. If the specimen is in a slab, all the label information.
2. Identify the metal, gold, silver, copper, bronze. If silver, indicate thin or thick planchet.
3. If edge-stamped, identify the symbol and the lettering and location of the stamping (such as 6 o'clock relative the obverse.)
4. Die alignment: coin turn/medal turn.
5. Describe state of any reverse die failure, perceptible bulge, advanced crack, etc.
6. Describe reverse caustic incursion, sometimes identified as rust, at the right handle of the vessel.
7. Describe any other identifying factors such a rim bumps, scratches, spots, unfilled letters of legends, etc. that would help identify the piece if it were re-encapsulated at some future time.
8. Indicate the provenance, if known. If you currently own the specimen feel free to identify it ex your name for the benefit of future owners.

Please contact Chester L. Sullivan at csull@ku.edu.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Rates are shown below.

Grayscale ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows (color ads are 50% more in each category):

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	4 issues	Copy Size
1 page	$300	$450	$600	$750	6” x 9”
1/2 page	$175	$250	$325	$400	6” x 4.5”

Covers cost somewhat more (please inquire – generally $200 additional.) Please send check with your ad. We accept camera-ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 10 lines of text.

NOTICE: The Colonial Coin Collectors Club does not review the ads provided for accuracy, nor does it assess any items offered for sale relative to authenticity, correct descriptions, or the like. C4 is not to be considered a party to any transactions occurring between members based on such ads, and will in no way be responsible to either the buyer or seller.

Looking for the following:

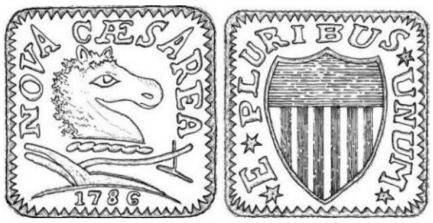
1 1788 Maris 51G New Jersey Copper, grading VG10 or Fine with a smooth planchet in a PCGS holder.

2 1785 Vermonts, Vermontis, or Vermontensium Copper (with a smooth planchet) in PCGS or NGC xf40 (one of any one of the noted varieties).

3 1787 Massachusetts Cent (with a smooth planchet) grading AU in a PCGS or NGC holder.

Nick D'Amico
30 Ovington Drive
Hamilton, NJ 08620
(201)923-4341

WANTED: I need five AJN’s (Volume 24, Numbers 3 and 4; Volume 27, Numbers 1, 3, and 4). These are whole numbers 127, 128, 137, 138, and 140. All are scarce, and I am willing to pay fairly for any of them in decent condition. Contact me at sfmartin5@comcast.net. Thanks, Syd Martin



A New NJ Copper!! And it's Square! A unique creation from a Crazy Jersey Collector. I've been developing this for several years and finally put my vision to pen and paper. Being a Jersey Copper specialist why not make a Square Jersey? Pure Copper, ~31.75 x 31.75 mm; In two finishes: Raw and Antique. Very limited production: 100 Raw copper, 100 Antique copper and 10 silver, each signed on edge by the Artist. Prices: Copper $24.95+$1.95 S&H, Both $43.95+$2.95, Silver $145.95+Free S&H. Obtain this unique copper by writing the creator at mdemling@mdaarchitects.com, or, Michael Demling; 1750 Zion Rd. Suite 106A; Northfield, NJ 08225

Bent, Holed, & Folded: Coin Talismans for Protection against Misfortune & Witchcraft in Colonial Jamestown. (150+ pages; over 150 references) **$19.95**
I present new information about how the colonists at Jamestown mutilated coins to fashion magical talismans. I review post-medieval English traditions about Divine Providence, Dead Saints, and Witchcraft and show how these ideas were brought to the New World. Talismans from Maryland and Massachusetts are also discussed. I have spent several years examining the coins excavated at Jamestown, most of them not yet available for public viewing. This book is fascinating and unlike anything you have read before. My book is available from major Internet sellers. Order it from me, and I will sign it and include a four-page guide to collecting coins from Jamestown. Thanks, Michael Shutty Jr. at mykshutty@yahoo.com.

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Clement V. Schettino; PO Box 1093; Saugus, MA 01906
copperclem@comcast.net; copperclem.com

Some of the Earliest American Coppers. Contemporary Counterfeit British & Irish Halfpence and Farthings. My personal collections built over the past decade are now for sale. We now have a webpage up and running with most all coins imaged and priced.

More will go up from time to time. I also have some Colonials and Spanish American Colonials-Cobs up. There are currently about 12 categories populated with coins for sale, they are; British George II, British George III, Irish George II, Irish George III, Counterstamps, Cast Ctfts, Mules, Errors, Regales Colonials and Cobs. In the near future I will be adding some interesting Misc pieces.

I am still selling CD's of my collections, the details are on the webpages.

Postage is always free for C4 and EAC members. Please use the savings towards next year's dues ;-).

Please visit the webpages at copperclem.com and feel free to email with any questions.

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